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SOME
SPECIMENS
OF THE
POETRY
OF THE
ANTIEN T WELSH BARDS.
TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH,

WITH

Explanatory NOTES on the HISTORICAL PASSAGES,
And a short Account of MEN and PLACES mentioned by the BARDS,
In order to give the Curious some Idea of the Taste and Sentiments of our Ancestors,
and their Manner of Writing.

By the Rev^d Mr. EVAN EVANS,
Curate of LLANVAIR TALYHAERN in DENBIGHSHIRE.

“ Vos quoque, qui fortes animas belloque peremptas
“ Laudibus in longum, Vates, dimittitis ævum,
“ Plurima securi fudistis carmina Bardi.”

LUCANUS.

——— “ Si quid mea carmina possunt
“ Aonio statuam sublimes vertice Bardos,
“ Bardos Pieridum cultores atque canentis
“ Phœbi delicias, quibus est data cura perennis
“ Dicere nobilium clarissima facta virorum,
“ Aureaque excelsam famam super astra locare.”

LELANDUS in Assertionem Arturii.

LONDON:
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BY THE REV. MR. EVANS, B.A.
(COUNSELLOR AT LAW, JACOBSON'S BUILDINGS.)



T O
SIR ROGER MOSTYN,

MOSTYN AND GLODDAITH, BART.

Representative of the County, Lord Lieutenant, and Lieutenant
Colonel of the Militia of FLINTSHIRE.

S I R,

I HOPE you will pardon my presumption in prefixing your name to the following small collection of British poems, to which you have a just claim, as being lineally descended from those heroes they celebrate, and retain in an eminent manner the worth and generous principles of your renowned ancestors. The British Bards were received by the nobility and gentry with distinguished marks of esteem, in every part of Wales, and particularly at Gloddaith and Mostyn, where their works are still preserved in your curious libraries. I hope, therefore, an attempt to give the public a small specimen of their works will not fail of your approbation, which the editor flatters himself with, from the generous manner with which you treated him, particularly by lending him some of your valuable books and manuscripts.

THAT you may long continue to be an ornament to your country, and a pattern of virtuous actions, and a generous patron of learning, is the sincere wish, of,

S I R,

YOUR OBLIGED

HUMBLE SERVANT,

S. NAVE EVANS.

Representative of the County, Lord Lieutenant, and Lieutenant Colonel of the Militia of Flintshire.

S I R,

I HOPE you will pardon my presumption in presenting your name to the following small collection of British poetry, which you have a just claim, as being almost entirely devoted to the names they celebrate, and retain in an eminent manner the worth and generous principles of your renowned ancestors. The British Poets were received by the nobility and gentry with distinguished marks of esteem, in every part of Wales and particularly in Glendale and Merioneth, where their works are still preserved in your libraries. I hope, therefore, an attempt to give the public a small specimen of their works will not fall of your approbation, which the editor flatters himself with, from the generous manner with which you treated him, particularly by sending him some of your valuable books and manuscripts.

The

THAT

S I R

The following curious Commission published and inserted in some of the Copies of Dr. Brown's Dissertation on the Union, &c. of Poetry and Music, and communicated from a Manuscript Copy in my Possession, having so near a Relation to the Family of the noble Patron of these Poems, I thought it right to reprint it on this Occasion.

“ By the QUEEN,

“ **E**LIZABETH, by the Grace of God, of England, France, and
 “ Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, &c. To our
 “ trusty and right well beloved Sir Richard Bulkely, Knight,
 “ Sir Rees Griffith, Knight, Ellis Price, Esq. Dr. in Civil Law,
 “ and one of our Council in the Marchesse of Wales, William
 “ Mostyn, Jeuen Lloyd of Yale, John Salisbury of Rhug, Rice
 “ Thomas, Maurice Wynne, William Lewis, Pierce Mostyn, Owen
 “ John ap Howel Fichan, John William ap John, John Lewis
 “ Owen, Morris Griffith, Symmd Thelwat, John Griffith, Ellis ap
 “ William Lloyd, Robert Puleston, Harri ap Harri, William Glynn,
 “ and Rees Hughes, Esqrs. and to every of them Greeting.”

“ WHEREAS it is come to the Knowledge of the Lord President,
 “ and other our Council in our Marchesse of Wales, that vagrant and
 “ idle Persons naming themselves *Minstrels*, *Rythmers*, and *Bards*, are
 “ lately grown into such *intolerable Multitude* within the Principality
 “ of North Wales, that not only Gentlemen and others by their
 “ *shameless Disorders* are oftentimes disquieted in their Habitations,
 “ but also the *expert Minstrels* and *Musicians* in *Tonge* and *Cunyng*
 “ thereby much discouraged to travaile in the Exercise and Practise
 “ of their Knowledg, and also not a little hindred (*of*) Livings and
 “ Preferment; the Reformation whereof, and the putting these
 “ People

" People in Order, the said Lord President and Council have thought
 " very necessary: And knowing you to be Men of both Wisdom
 " and upright Dealing, and also of Experience and good Knowledg
 " in the Scyence, have appointed and authorized You to be Commis-
 " sioners for that Purpose: And forasmuch as our said Council, of
 " late travailing in some Part of the said Principality, had perfect Un-
 " derstanding by credible Report, that the accustomed Place for the
 " Execution of the like Commission hath been heretofore at Cayroes
 " in our County of Flynt, and that William Mostyn, Esq. and his
 " Ancestors have had the Gift and bestowing of the *Sylver Harp* ap-
 " pertaining to the *Chief of that Faculty*, and that a *Year's Warning*
 " (at least) hath been accustomed to be given of the *Assembly* and
 " Execution of the like Commission; Our said Council have therefore
 " appointed the Execution of this Commission to be at the said Town
 " of Cayroes, the Monday next after the Feast of the Blessed Trinity
 " which shall be in the Year of our Lord 1568. And therefore we
 " require and command You by the Authority of these Presents, not
 " only to cause *open Proclamation* to be made in all *Fairs, Market-*
 " *Towns*, and other *Places of Assembly* within our Counties of Aglere,
 " Carnarvon, Meryonydd, Denbigh and Flynt, that all and every
 " Person and Persons that intend to *maintain* their *Living* by name
 " or Colour of *Minstrels, Rythmers, or Bards*, within the Talaith of
 " Aberffraw, comprehending the said five Shires, shall be and appear
 " before You the said Day and Place to *shew* their *Learnings* accord-
 " ingly: But also, that You, twenty, nineteen, eighteen, seventeen,
 " sixteen, fifteen, fourteen, thirteen, twelve, eleven, ten, nine, eight,
 " seven, or six of you, wherof You the said Sir Richard Bulkely,
 " Sir Rees Griffith, Ellis Price, and William Mostyn Esqs. or three
 " or two of you, to be of the number; to repair to the said Place the
 " Days aforesaid, and calling to you such *expert Men* in the said Fa-
 " culty

“ *culty* of the *Welsh Musick* as to You shall be thought convenient, to
 “ proceed to the Execution of the Premises, and to admit such and
 “ so many, as by your Wisdoms and Knowledges you shall find
 “ *worthy*, into and under the *Degrees* heretofore (*in Use*) in sembla-
 “ ble Sort to *use, exercise, and follow* the *Sciences* and *Faculties* of their
 “ *Professions*, in such decent Order as shall appertain to each of their
 “ Degrees, and as your Discretions and Wisdoms shall prescribe unto
 “ them: Giving streight Monition and Commandment in our Name
 “ and on our Behalf to the rest not worthy, that they return to some
 “ honest Labour, and due Exercise, such as they be most apt unto
 “ for Maintenance of their Living, upon Pain to be taken as sturdy
 “ and idle Vagabonds, and to be used according to the Laws and
 “ Statutes provided in that Behalf; letting You with our said Coun-
 “ cil look for Advertisement, by Certificate at your Hands, of your
 “ Doings in the Execution of the said Premises; foreseeing in any
 “ wise, that upon the said Assembly the Peace and good Order be
 “ observed and kept accordingly; ascertaining you that the said
 “ William Mostyn hath promised to see Furniture and Things neces-
 “ sary provided for that Assembly, at the Place aforesaid.”

“ Given under our Signet at our City of Chester, the twenty
 “ third of October in the ninth Year of our Reign, 1567.”

“ Signed

“ Her Highness's Counsaill

“ in the Marchesse of Wales.”

“ N. B. This Commission was copy'd exactly from the Ori-
 “ ginal now at Mostyn, A. D. 1693: Where the *Silver*
 “ *Harp* also is.”

Since

Since this Commission has been in the Press, the Author has had an Opportunity to see the following Account of what has been done in Consequence of such a Commission in the tenth Year of the Reign of Queen Elizabeth. This is translated from the Original in Welsh.

K NOW all Men, by these Presents, That there is a Congress of Bards, and Musicians, to be held in the Town of Caerwys, in the County of Flint, on the twenty-sixth Day of May, in the tenth Year of the Reign of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, before Ellis Price, Esquire, Doctor of the Civil Law, and one of her Majesty's Council in the Marches of Wales, and before William Mostyn, Peres Mostyn, Owen John ap Hywel Vaughan, John William ap John, John Lewis Owen, Morris Griffith, Simon Thelwat, John Griffith Serjeant, Robert Puleston, Evan Lloyd of Jâl, and William Glyn, Esquires.

AND that we the said Commissioners, by virtue of the said Commission, being her Majesty's Council, do give and grant to Simwnt Vychan, Bard, the degree of Pencerdd; and do order that Persons receive and hospitably entertain him in all Places fit for him to go and come to receive his Perquisites according to the Princely Statutes in that Case made and provided. Given under our Hands, in the Year 1568.

PREFACE.

P R E F A C E.

AS there is a natural curiosity in most people to be brought acquainted with the works of men, whose names have been conveyed down to us with applause from very early antiquity; I have been induced to think, that a translation of some of the Welsh Bards would be no unacceptable present to the public. It is true, they lived in times when all Europe was enveloped with the dark cloud of bigotry and ignorance; yet, even under these disadvantageous circumstances, a late instance may convince us, that poetry shone forth with a light, that seems astonishing to many readers. They who have perused the works of Ossian, as translated by Mr. Macpherson, will, I believe, be of my opinion.

I MEAN not to set the following poems in competition with those just mentioned; nor did the success which they have met with from the world, put me upon this undertaking. It was first thought of, and encouraged some years before the name of Ossian was known in England. I had long been convinced, that no nation in Europe possesses greater remains of antient and genuine
B pieces.

pieces of this kind than the Welsh ; and therefore was inclined, in honour to my country, to give a specimen of them in the English language.

As to the genuineness of these poems, I think there can be no doubt ; but though we may vie with the Scottish nation in this particular, yet there is another point, in which we must yield to them undoubtedly. The language of their oldest poets, it seems, is still perfectly intelligible, which is by no means our case.

THE works of Taliesin, Lywarch Hên, Aneurin Gwawdrydd, Myrddin Wyllt, Avan Verddig, who all flourished about the year 560, a considerable time after Ossian, are hardly understood by the best critics and antiquarians in Wales, though our language has not undergone more changes than the Erse. Nay, the Bards that wrote a long while after, from the time of William the Conqueror to the death of prince Llewelyn, are not so easy to be understood ; but that whoever goes about to translate them, will find numerous obsolete words, not to be found in any Dictionary or Glossary, either in print or manuscript.

What this difference is owing to, I leave to be determined by others, who are better acquainted, than I am, with such circumstances of the Scottish Highlands, as might prove more favourable towards keeping up the perfect knowledge of their language for so many generations. But, be that as it may, it is not my intent to enter into the dispute, which has arisen in relation to the antiquity of Ossian's poems. My concern is only about the opinion the world may entertain of the intrinsic value of those which I offer. They seem to me, though not so methodical and regular
in

in their composition as many poems of other nations, yet not to be wanting in poetical merit; and if I am not totally deceived in my judgment, I shall have no reason to repent of the pains I have taken to draw them out of that state of obscurity, in which they have hitherto been buried, and in which they run great risque of mouldering away.

It might perhaps be expected, that I should say something of the Bards in general on this occasion; but as I have treated that subject in my Latin Dissertation, which I shall annex to these translations, it will be sufficient to observe here, that the usual subjects of their poems were the brave feats of their warriors in the field, their hospitality and generosity with other commendable qualities in domestic life, and elegies upon their great men, which were sung to the harp at their feasts, before a numerous audience of their friends and relations. This is the account that the Greek and Roman writers have given of them, as I have shewn at large in the above-mentioned treatise, which I intend to publish.

THE following poems, from among many others of greater length, and of equal merit, were taken from a manuscript of the learned Dr. Davies, author of the Dictionary, which he had transcribed from an antient vellum MS. which was wrote, partly in Edward the second and third's time, and partly in Henry the fifth's, containing the works of all the Bards from the Conquest to the death of Llewelyn, the last prince of the British line. This is a noble treasure, and very rare to be met with; for Edward the first ordered all our Bards, and their works, to be destroyed, as is attested by Sir John Wynne of Gwydir, in the history he compiled of his ancestors at Carnarvon. What remained of their works were conveyed in his

time to the Exchequer, where he complains they lay in great confusion, when he had occasion to consult them.

As to the translation, I have endeavoured to render the sense of the Bards faithfully, without confining myself to too servile a version; nor have I, on the other hand, taken liberty to wander much from the originals; unless where I saw it absolutely necessary, on account of the different phraseology and idiom of language.

If this small collection has the good fortune to merit the attention of the public, I may, in some future time, if God permit me life and health, proceed to translate other select pieces from the same manuscript. The poems, in the original, have great merit; and if there is none in the translation of this specimen, it must be owing intirely to my inability to do the Bards justice. I am not the only person who admires them: Men of the greatest sense and learning in Wales do the same.

It must be owned, that it is an arduous task to bring them to make any tolerable figure in a prose translation; but those who have any candor, will make allowances. What was said of poetry in general by one of the wits, that *it is but Prose run mad*, may very justly be applied to our Bards in particular: For there are not such extravagant flights in any poetic compositions, except it be in the Eastern, to which, as far as I can judge by the few translated specimens I have seen, they bear a great resemblance.

I HAVE added a few Notes, to illustrate some historical facts alluded to in the poems, and a short account of each poem, and
the

P R E F A C E.

v

the occasion it was written upon, as far as it could be traced from our ancient manuscripts.

I HAVE been obliged to leave blanks in some places, where I did not understand the meaning in the original, as I had but one copy by me, which might be faulty. When I have an opportunity to collate it with other copies, I may clear these obscure passages.

I. A POEM

P. R. F. A. C. E.

The Council of the City of New York, in its resolution of the 10th day of March, 1897, has directed the Board of Education to cause to be prepared a report on the subject of the proposed amendment to the Charter of the City of New York, relating to the election of the Board of Education.

I have been obliged to leave the City of New York on the 10th day of March, 1897, and have not been able to attend to the matter. I have, however, caused to be prepared a report on the subject of the proposed amendment to the Charter of the City of New York, relating to the election of the Board of Education, which report is herewith submitted to the Council of the City of New York.

I. A. C.

I.

A POEM composed by Owain Cyveiliog, prince of Powys, entitled by him HIRLAS, from a large drinking horn so called, used at feasts in his palace. He was driven out of his country by Owain Gwynedd, prince of North-wales, and Rhys-ap-Griffith-ap-Rhys-ap-Tewdwr, prince of South-wales, A. D. 1167, and recovered it, by the help of the Normans and English, under Henry the second. He flourished about A. D. 1160, in the time of Owain Gwynedd and his son David. This poem was composed on account of a battle fought with the English at Maelor, which is a part of the counties of Denbigh and Flint, according to the modern division.

WHEN the dawn arose, the shout was given; the enemy gave an ominous presage; our men were stained with blood, after a hard contest; and the borders of Maelor Drefred were beheld with wonder and astonishment. Strangers have I driven away undaunted from the field with bloody arms. He that provokes the brave man, ought to dread his resentment.

FILL, Cup-bearer, fill with alacrity the horn of Rhys, in the generous prince's hall; for Owen's hall was ever supported by spoils taken from the enemy; and in it thou hearest of the relief of thousands. There the gates are ever open.

O CUP-

8 SPECIMENS OF ANTIENT POEM I.

O CUP-BEARER, who, with patience, mindest thy duty, forsake us not; fetch the horn, that we may drink together, whose gloss is like the wave of the sea; whose green handles shew the skill of the artist, and are tipped with gold. Bring the best meath, and put it in Gwgan Draws's hand, for the noble feats which he hath atchieved: The offspring of Gronwy, who valiantly fought in the midst of dangers; a race of heroes for worthy acts renowned: And men, who, in every hardship they undergo, deserve a reward; who are in the battle foremost: The guardians of Sabrina. Their friends exult, when they hear their voice. The festal shout will cease when they are gone.

FILL thou the yellow-tipped horn, badge of honour and mirth, full of frothing meath; and if thou art desirous to have thy life prolonged to the year's end, stop not the reward due to his virtue; for it is unjust; and bring it to Griffith, with the crimson lance. Bring wine in the transparent horn; for he is the guardian of * Arwyflli, the defence of its borders; a dragon of Owain the generous, whose descent is from Cynvyn; a dragon he was from the beginning, that never was terrified in the battle; his brave actions shall follow him. The warriors went to purchase renown, flushed with liquor, and armed like Edwin; they paid for their mead, like † Belyn's men, in the days of yore. And as long as men exist, their valour shall be the common theme of Bards.

FILL thou the horn; for it is my inclination, that we may converse in mirth and festivity with our brave general; put it in the hand

* Arwyflli, the name of one of the cantreds of Powys.

† Belyn, a great man from Lley in Carnarvonshire, mentioned in the Triades, and is said there to have fought with Edwin, king of the Northum-

brians, in Bryn-Cenau in Rhos, in the County of Denbigh; probably he was one of Cadwallon's generals; it is well known, and confessed by Beda himself, that That prince was a terrible scourge to the Saxons.

of the worthy Ednyfed, with his spear broken to pieces, and his shield pierced through. Like the bursting of a hurricane upon the smooth sea in the conflict of battle, they would soon break in pieces the sides of a golden-bordered shield: Their lances were besmeared with gore, after piercing the heads of their enemies; they were vigorous and active in the defence of delightful ^a Garthan. Heard ye in Maelor the noise of war, the horrid din of arms, their furious onset, loud as in the battle of ^b Bangor, where fire flashed out of their spears? There two princes engaged, when the carousing of Morach Vorvran ^c happened.

FILL thou the horn; for it is my delight, in the place where the defenders of our country drink mead, and give it to Selyf the

^a Garthan, the name of a fort or castle somewhere near the Severn.

^b This was the famous battle of Bangor-is-y-coed in Flintshire, after the murder of the monks, at the instigation of Austin, the first converter of the Saxons to Christianity. This is the account Humphrey Lloyd gives of that affair: "Ille vero [Augustinus S.] ob hanc contumeliam, & quod archiepiscopo Cantuariæ a se constituto, & quod cum Romana ecclesia in quibusdam non convenirent, Anglorum odium ita in eos concivit, ut paulo post (ut dixi) ab Ethelfredo, Ethelberti, Cantix regis, ob Augustino incitati, opera & auxiliis, monachi pacem petentes, crudeliter occisi; & postea Britanni duce Brochwelo Powisix Rege, victi sunt, donec tandem Bletrufii Cornavix ducis, Cadvanni Northwallix, Mereduci Suthwallix regum copiis adjuti, & Dunoti abbatis viri doctissimi

concione animati, quique jussit (ut nostri annales referunt) ut unusquisque terram oscularetur, in memoriam communionis corporis Dominici, aquamque ex Deva fluvio manu haustam biberet, in memoriam sacratissimi sanguinis Christi pro eis effusus, & ita communicati, memorabili proelio Saxones, occisi (ut Huntingtonensis refert) ex eis MLXVI. Cadvanumque in civitate Legionis regem creavere." Britan. Descript. Commentariolum, p. 90, & 91, Moses Williams's Edition. This battle is called in our annals sometimes Gwaith Caerlleon, that is, the battle of Chester, and is said to have been fought, A. D. 633.

^c We have no account at present, that I know of, who this Morach Vorvran was, nor the occasion of his joy and festivity, alluded to in this poem; probably it was upon the defeat of the Saxons at Bangor y Gwygyr.

C

fearless,

fearless, the defence of ^dGwygyr; woe to the wretch that offends him, eagle-hearted hero: And to the son of Madoc, the famous and generous Tudur, like a wolf when he seizes his prey, is his assault in the onset. Two heroes, who were sage in their counsels, but active in the field, the two sons of Ynyr, who, on the day of battle, were ready for the attack, heedless of danger, famous for their exploits; their assault was like that of strong lions, and they pierced their enemies like brave warriors, they were lords of the battle, and rushed foremost with their crimson lances; the weight of their attack was not to be withstood; their shields were broke asunder with much force, as the high-sounding wind on the beach of the green sea, and the encroaching of the furious waves on the coast of ^eTalgarth.

FILL, Cup-bearer, as thou regardest thy life; fill the horn, badge of honour at feasts, the ^fhirlas drinking-horn, which is a token of distinction, whose tip is adorned with silver, and it's cover of the same metal; and bring it to Tudur, the eagle of battles, filled with the best wine; and if thou dost not bring us the best of all, thy head shall fly off: Give it in the hand of Moreiddig, encourager of songs, whose praise in battle is celebrated; they were brethren of a distant clime, of an undaunted heart, and their valour was observable in their countenance. Can I forget their services? Impetuous warriors, wolves of the battle, their lances are besmeared with gore; they were the heroes of the chief of ^gMochnant, in the region of Powys. Their honour was soon purchased by them both; they seized every occasion to defend their country, in the time of

^d The name of a place, but where situated, I know not.

^e Talgarth, the name of many places in Wales; but this must be somewhere near the sea.

^f Hirlas, the epithet of the horn, from hir, long; and glas, blue, or azure.

^g Mochnannwys, in the original, he calls himself prince of the Mochnannwys, or inhabitants of Mochnant.

need,

need, with their bloody arms, and they kept their borders from hostile invasion. Their lot is praise ; It is like a mournful elegy to me to lose them both ! O Christ ! how pensive am I for the loss of Moreiddig, which is irreparable.

POUR thou out the horn, though they desire it not, the drinking horn, hirlas, with cheerfulness, and deliver it into the hand of Morgant, one who deserves to be celebrated with distinguished praise. It was like poison to me, to be deprived of him, and that he was pierced - - - - - by the keen sword.

POUR, Cup-bearer, from a silver vessel, an honourable gift, badge of distinction. On the large plains of ^h Gwestun I have seen a miracle ; to stop the impetuosity of Gronwy, was more than a task for an hundred men. The warriors pointed their lances, courted the battle, and were profuse of life ; they met their enemies in the conflict, and their chieftain was consumed by fire near the surges of the sea ⁱ. They rescued a noble prisoner, Meurig the son of Griffith, of renowned valour ; they were all of them covered with blood when they returned, and the high hills and the dales enjoyed the sun equally ^k.

POUR the horn to the warriors, Owain's noble heroes, who were equally active and brave. They assembled in that renowned place,

^h Gwestun, the name of a place somewhere in Powys.

ⁱ By this circumstance, it seems, they rescued the prisoner from some maritime action.

^k Sun equally, that is, at noon day,

which added much to the merit of the

where the shining steel glittered. Madoc and Meilir were men accustomed to violence, and maintained each other in the injuries they did to their enemies; they were the shields of our army, and the teachers of warlike attack. Hear ye, by drinking mead, how the lord of Cattræth went with his warriors in defence of his just cause, the guards of ¹ Mynyddawc about their distinguished chief. They have been celebrated for their bravery, and their speedy march. But nobody has ever performed so noble an exploit as my warriors, in the tough land of Maelor, in rescuing the captive.

Pour out, Cup-bearer, sweet and well-strained mead, (the thrust of the spear is red in the time of need) from the horns of wild oxen, covered with gold, for the honour, and the reward of the souls of those departed heroes. Of the numerous cares that surround princes, no one is conscious here but God and myself. The man who neither gives nor takes quarter, and cannot be forced by his enemies to abide to his word, Daniel the valiant and beautiful: O Cup-bearer, great is the task to entreat him; his men will not cease dealing death around them, till he is mollified. Cup-bearer, our shares of mead are to be given us equally before the bright shining tapers. Cup-bearer, hadst thou seen the action in the land

¹ The guards of Mynyddaw Eiddin, or of Edinburgh, in the battle of Cattræth, which is celebrated by Aneurin Gwawdrydd, in his heroic poem entitled the Gododin. Mynyddawc was a prince of the North, he is mentioned in the Triades of Britain; and his guards, who were famous for their loyalty and

bravery, were reckoned among the three noble guards of the kingdom of Britain; the other two being the guards, or, as the word Gofgordd may be translated, the clans of Melyn the son of Cynvelyn, and the guards of Drywon the son of Nudd, in the battle of Rhodwydd Arderydd.

of ^m Llidwm, the men whom I honour have but what is their just reward. Cup-bearer, hadst thou seen the armed chiefs, encompassing Owain, who were his shield against the violence of his foes, when ⁿ Cawres was invaded with great fury. Cup-bearer, flight not my commands: May we all be admitted into Paradise by the King of kings; and long may the liberty and happiness of my heroes continue, where the truth is to be discerned distinctly.

^m Llidwm, the name of a place somewhere in Maelor.

ⁿ I do not recollect what country this place is in.

II.

A P O E M

*To ^a Myfanwy Fechan of ^b Castell Dinas Bran, composed
by ^c Howel-ap-Einion Lygliw, a Bard who flourished
about A. D. 1390.*

I AM without spirit, O thou that hast enchanted me, as ^d Creirwy
enchanted ^e Garwy. In whatever part of the world I am, I
lament my absence from the marble castle of Myfanwy. Love is
the heaviest burden, O thou that shinest like the heavens, and a
greater punishment cannot be inflicted than thy displeasure, O beau-
tiful Myfanwy. I who am plunged deeper and deeper in love,
can expect no other ease, O gentle fair Myfanwy with the jet eye-
brows, than to lose my life upon thy account. I sung in golden
verse thy praises, O Myfanwy; this is the happiness of thy lover,

^a I cannot recollect who Myfanwy Fechan, the subject of the poem, is, but
guess her to be descended from the prin-
ces of Powys.

^b Castell Dinas Bran, or Bran's Castle,
is situated on a high hill near Llan-
gollen in Denbighshire. Mr. Humphrey
Llwyd, the Antiquarian, thinks it took
its name from Brennus; but Llwyd of
the Museum, more probably, from Bran,
the name of a river that runs thereabout.
Bran signifies a crow, and is the name of
several rivers in Wales. I suppose on ac-

count of their black streams issuing
from turfaries. There are still remains
of the ruins of this castle.

^c Howel-ap-Einion Lygliw was a
man of note in his time, and a celebrated
Bard. Dr. Davies thinks he was uncle
to Gruffudd Llwyd-ap-Dafydd-ap-Ei-
nion Lygliw, another famous bard, who
flourished, A. D. 1400.

^d Creirwy, a lady of great beauty
often mentioned by the bards.

^e Garwy, one of king Arthur's
knights.

but the happiness is a misfortune. The well-fed steed carried me
 pensive like ^fTrystan, and great was his speed to reach the golden
 summit of Bran. Daily I turn my eyes, and see thee, O thou that
 shinest like the waves of ^gCaswennan. Charming sight to gaze on
 thee in the spacious royal palace of Bran. I have rode hard, mount-
 ed on a fine high-bred steed, upon thy account, O thou with the
 countenance of cherry-flower bloom. The speed was with eager-
 ness, and the strong long-ham'd steed of ^hAlban reached the sum-
 mit of the highland of Bran. I have composed, with great stu-
 dy and pains, thy praise, O thou that shinest like the new-fallen
 snow on the brow of ⁱAran. O thou beautiful flower descended
 from ^kTrefor. Hear my sorrowful complaint. I am wounded, and
 the great love I bear thee will not suffer me to sleep, unless thou givest
 me a kind answer. I, thy pensive Bard, am in as woeful plight as
^lRhun by thy palace, beautiful maid. I recite, without either
 flattery or guile, thy praise, O thou that shinest like the meridian sun,
 with thy stately steps. Shouldst thou, who art the luminary of many
 countries, demand my two eyes, I would part with them on thy ac-
 count, such is the pain I suffer. They pain me while I look on the
 glossy walls of thy fine habitation, and see thee beautiful as the morn-
 ing sun. I have meditated thy praise, and made all countries resound
 with it, and every finger was pleased in chanting it. So affecting are
 the subjects of my mournful tale, O Myfanwy ^m, that lookest like

^f Trystan - ap - Tallwch, another of
 king Arthur's knights.

^g Caswennan, the name of one of
 king Arthur's ships, which was wrecked
 in a place denominated from her Go-
 ffrydau Caswennan.

^h Alban, Scotland. It seems the Bard
 rode upon a Scotch steed.

ⁱ Aran, the name of two high moun-
 tains in Merionethshire.

^k Some of the Trefor-family (and

perhaps descendents) now live near Cas-
 tell Dinas Bran.

^l Rhen, son of Maelgwn Gwynedd
 king of Britain, A.D. 570. I do not
 remember the story alluded to here by
 the Bard.

^m I suppose Myfanwy Fechan was
 descended from Tudur Trefor earl of
 Hereford, of one side. The worthy fa-
 mily of the Mostyns of Mostyn and Glo-
 ddaith, are descended from Tudur Trefor.

flakes of driven snow. My loving heart sinks with grief without thy support, O thou that hast the whiteness of the curling waves. Heaven has decreed, that I should suffer tormenting pain, and wisdom and reason were given in vain to guard against love. When I saw thy fine shape in scarlet robes, thou daughter of a generous chief, I was so affected, that life and death were equal to me. I sunk away, and scarce had time to make my confession. Alas! my labour in celebrating thy praises, O thou that shinest like the fine spider's webs on the grass in a summer's day, is vain. It would be a hard task for any man to guess how great my pain is. It is so afflicting, thou bright luminary of maids, that my colour is gone. I know that this pain will avail me nothing towards obtaining thy love, O thou whose countenance is as bright as the flowers of the haw-thorn. O how well didst thou succeed in making me to languish, and despair. For heaven's sake, pity my distressed condition, and soften the pittance of thy Bard. I am a Bard, who, though wounded by thee, sing thy praises in well-sounding verse, thou gentle maid of slender shape, who hinderest me to sleep by thy charms. I bring thy praises, bright maid, to thy neat palace at ^a Dinbrain; many are the songs that I rehearse to celebrate thy beautiful form.

^a Dinbrain, the same as Dinas Bran.

III.

A - N - O - D - E

*Of David Benfras to Llewelyn the Great, Prince of
Wales, A. D. 1240.*

HE who created the glorious sun, and that cold pale luminary the moon, grant that I attain the heights of poetry, and be inspired with the genius of ^a Myrddin; that I may extol the praise of of heroes, like ^b Aneurin, in the day he sung his celebrated Gododin; that I may set forth the happiness of the inhabitants of Venetia, the noble and prosperous prince of Gwynedd, the stay and prop of his fair and pleasant country. He is manly and heroic in the battle, his fame overspreadeth the country about the mountain of ^c Breiddin. Since God created the first man, there never was his

^b There were two Myrddins, or Merlins, as they are wrongly written by the English, viz. Myrddin Emrys and Myrddin Wyllt; the last was a noted poet, and there is a poem of his extant, entitled Avallennau, or the Apple-trees.

^c Aneurin Gwawdrydd Mychdeyrn Beirdd, i. e. Aneurin the monarch of Bards, was a celebrated poet of North Britain. His poem, the Gododin, up-

on the battle of Cattraeth, is extant; but by reason of its great antiquity, is not easily understood at this distance of time, being upwards of twelve hundred years old: However, it appears, from what is understood of it, to have been a very spirited performance.

^d Craig Vreiddin, is a high hill in Montgomeryshire.

equal in the front of battle. Llewelyn the generous, of the race of princes, has struck terror and astonishment in the heart of kings. When he strove for superiority with Loegria's king, when he was wasting the country of ^d Erbin, his troops were valiant and numerous. Great was the confusion when the shout was given, his sword was bathed in blood; proud were his nobles to see his army; when they heard the clashing of swords, then was felt the agony of wounds - - - - -

Many were the gashes in the conflict of war. Great was the confusion of the Saxons about the ditch of Knocking^f. The sword was broke in the hand of the warrior. Heads were covered with wounds, and the flood of human gore gushed in streams down the knees.

LLEWELYN'S empire is wide extended, he is renowned as far as Porth Ysgewin. Constahtine was not his equal in undergoing hardships. Had I arrived to the height of prophecy, and the great gift of antient poesy, I could not relate his prowess in action; no, ^h Taliesin himself was unequal to the task. Before he finishes his course in this world, after he has lived a long life on earth, ere he goes to the deep and bone-bestrewed grave, ere the green herb grows over

^d I know not where this country is.
^e Some lines are wanting in the original.

^f Knocking, I suppose, is somewhere near Offa's ditch.

^g Porth Ysgewin is near Chepstow, in Monmouthshire or Glamorganshire.

^h Taliesin Ben Beridd, or the chief of Bards, flourished about the year 560,

or thereabout, under Maelgwn Gwynedd king of Britain, called by Gildas Maglocunus. Many of Taliesin's poems are extant, but on account of their great antiquity are very obscure, as the work of his cotemporaries are. There is a great deal of the Druidical Cabbala intermixed in his works, especially about the transmigration of souls.

IV.

A P O E M

To Llewelyn the Great, composed by Einion the Son of Gwgan, about 1244.

I INVOKE the assistance of the God of Heaven, Christ our Saviour, whom to neglect is impious. That gift is true which descendeth from above. The gifts that are given me are immortal, to discern, according to the great apostle, *what is right and decent*; and, among other grand subjects, to celebrate my prince, who avoids not the battle nor it's danger; Llewelyn the generous, the maintainer of bards. He is the dispenser of happiness to his subjects, his noble deeds cannot be sufficiently extolled. His spear flashes in a hand accustomed to martial deeds. It kills and puts it's enemies to flight by the palace of Rheidiol^a. I have seen, and it was my heart's delight, the guards of Lleision^b about it's grand buildings; numberless troops of warriors mounted on white steeds. They encompassed

^a Rheidiol is the name of a large river in Cardiganshire, and Glasgrug, one of the palaces of the princes of South-wales, is very near it, about a measured mile from Aberystwyth, and at present the property of the Rev. Mr. William Powel of Nanteos.

^b Lleision was one of the palaces of the princes of Powys, corruptly now called Llyfin; and the park about it is called Llyfin-park, the patrimony of lord Powys.

our eagle : Llewelyn the magnanimous hero, whose armour glistered ; the maintainer of his rights. He defended the border of Powys, a country renowned for it's bravery, he defended it's steep passes, and supported the privileges of it's prince. Obstinate was his resistance to the treacherous English. In Rhuddlan he was like the ruddy fire flaming with destructive light. There have I seen Llewelyn the brave gaining immortal glory. I have seen him gallantly ploughing the waves of Deva, when the tide was at it's height. I have seen him furious in the conflict of Chester, where he doubly repays his enemies the injuries he suffered from them. It is but just that he should enjoy the praise due to his valour. I will extol thee, and the task is delightful. Thou art like the eagle amongst the nobles of Britain. Thy form is majestic and terrible, when thou pursuest thy foes. When thou invadest thy enemies, where Owain thy predecessor invaded them in former times ; full proud was thy heart in dividing the spoils, it happened as in the battles of Kulwydd and Llwyvein^c. Thy beautiful steeds were fatigued with the labour of the day, where the troops wallowed in gore, and were thrown in confusion. The bow was full bent before the mangled corse, the spear aimed at the breast, in the country of Eurgain^d. The army at Offa's Dike panted for glory, the troops of Venedotia, and the men of London, were as the alternate motion of the waves on the sea-shore, where the sea-mew screams ; great was our happiness to put the Normans to fear and consternation. Llewelyn the terrible with his brave warriors effected it ; the prince of glorious and happy Mona. He is it's ornament and distinguished chief.

^c The battle of Llwyvein was fought by Urien Reged and his son Owain, against Ida king of the Northumbrians. It is celebrated by Taliesin in a poem,

entitled Gwaith Argoed Llwyvein, i. e. the battle of Argoed Llwyvein.

^d Eurgain, Northop in Flintshire, so called from Eurgain, the daughter of Maelgwn Gwynedd.

THE lord of Demetia^e mustered his troops, and out of envy met his prince in the field. The inhabitants of Stone-walled Carmarthen were hewn to pieces in the conflict. Nor fort, nor castle, could withstand him: And before the gates the English were trampled under foot. It's chief was sad, the unsheathed sword shone bright, and hundreds hands were engaged in the onset at Llanthadian^f. In^g Cilgeran they purchased glory and honour
 In Abér Terior the
 hovering crows were numberless thick were the
 spears besmeared with gore. The ravens croaked, they were greedy to suck the prostrate carcases. Llewelyn, may such fate attend thy foes. Mayest thou be more prosperous than the noble^h Llywarch with his bloody lance. Thy glory shall not be obscured. There is none that exceedeth thee in bestowing gifts on the days of solemnity. In battle thy sword is conspicuous. Wherever thou goest to war, to whatever distant clime, glory follows thee from the rising to the setting sun. I have a generous and noble prince, the lord of a large territory. He is renowned for his coolness and conduct. Whole troops fall before him; he defendeth his men like an eagle. My prince's brave actions will be celebrated in the

^e Demetia. This expedition of Llewelyn-ap-Iorwerth was against the Flemings and Normans, of which there is an account in Powel's History of Wales, p. 277, 278.

^f Llanhuadein the name of a place in Pembrokeshire.

^g Cilgeran the name of another place in the same county, near the river Tievi.

^h Llywarch-hen, the son of Elidir Lydnwyn a nobleman of North Britain,

and cousin german to Urien Reged king of Cumbria, he was a great warrior, and fought successful against the Saxons; but fortune at last favouring the Saxons, he was obliged in his old age to retire to Wales. He had twenty-four sons, who wore golden chains, and were all killed in battles against the Saxons. Llywarch-hen was a noted Bard, his works are extant, wherein he celebrates the noble feats of his sons, and bewails his misfortunes, and the troubles of old age, especially in distress.

country

country by Tanadⁱ. He is valorous as a lion, who can resist his lance? He is charitable to the needy, and his relief is not sought in vain. My prince is dressed in fine purple robes. He is like generous^k Nudd in bestowing present. Like valiant^l Huail in defying his enemy. He is like^m Rhydderch in distributing his gold. Let his praise resound in every country. He possesses a large territory and immense riches, wherever you turn your eyes. In wealth he is equal to Mordaf; like him he opens his liberal hand to the Bard. He is like warlikeⁿ Rhun in bestowing his favours. He is the subject of my meditation. I am to him as an hand or an eye. He is not descended from a base degenerate stock; and I myself am descended from his father's courtiers. His fury in battle is like lightning when he attacks the foe: His heart glows with ardour in the field like magnanimous Gwriad^p. His enemies are scattered as leaves on the side of hills drove by tempestuous hurricanes. He is the honourable support and owner of Hunydd^q. He is the grace, the ornament of Arvon^r. Llewelyn, terror of thy enemy, death issued out of thy hand in the South. Thou art to us like an anchor in the time of storm. Protector of our country, may the shield of God protect thee. Britain, fearless of her enemies, glories in being ruled by

ⁱ Tanad is the name of a river in Montgomeryshire, which emptieth itself into the Severn.

^k Nudd Hael, or the Generous, was a nobleman of North Britain remarkable for his liberality.

^l Huail was a brother of Gildas, the son of Caw, and a noted warrior. His brother Gildas was the author of the Epistle De excidio Britanniae.

^m Rydderch Hael, or the Generous, was another nobleman of the North, noted for his liberality.

ⁿ Rhun, the son of Maelgwn Gwynedd king of Britain, a great warrior.

● As an hand, &c. i. e. I am as neces-

sary to him as one of those members to the body, to celebrate his martial feats.

^p Gwriad, is the name of a hero mentioned in the Gododin.

^q Hunydd, the name of a woman, probably the prince's mistress. The Bards had no great affection for Joan the princess, daughter of king John, because she was an Englishwoman, and not faithful to the prince's bed.

^r Arvon, the county of Crnarvon, so called, because situated opposite to Môn, or Anglesea. Arvon, literally Supra Monam, from the particle Ar, super, and Mon, Mona.

him, by a chief who has numerous troops to defend her ; by Llewelyn, who defies his enemies from shore to shore. He is the joy of armies, and like a Lyon in danger. He is the emperor and sovereign of sea and land. He is a warrior that may be compared to a deluge, to the surge on the beach that covereth the wild salmons. His noise is like the roaring wave that rusheth to the shore, that can neither be stopped or appeased. He puts numerous troops of his enemies to flight like a mighty wind. Warriors crowded about him, zealous to defend his just cause ; their shields shone bright on their arms. His Bards make the vales resound with his praises ; the justice of his cause, and his bravery in maintaining it, are deservedly celebrated. His valor is the theme of every tongue. The glory of his victories is heard in distant climes. His men exult about their eagle. To yield or die is the fate of his enemies—They have experienced his force by the shivering of his lance. In the day of battle no danger can turn him from his purpose. He is conspicuous above the rest, with a large, strong, crimson lance. He is the honour of his country, great is his generosity, and a suit is not made to him in vain. Llewelyn is a tender-hearted prince. He can nobly spread the feast, yet is he not enervated by luxury. May he that bestowed on us a share of his heavenly revelation, grant him the blessed habitation of the saints above the stars.

V.

A PANEGYRIC

*Upon Owain Gwynedd, Prince of North Wales, by
Gwalchmai, the Son of Melir, in the Year 1157.*

I WILL extol the generous hero descended from the race of ^a Roderic, the bulwark of his country, a prince eminent for his good qualities, the glory of Britain, Owain the brave and expert in arms, a prince that neither hoardeth nor coveteth riches.—Three fleets arrived, vessels of the main, three powerful fleets of the first rate, furiously to attack him on a sudden. One from ^b Iwerddon, the other full of well-armed ^c Lochlynians, making a grand appearance on the floods, the third from the transmarine ^d Normans, which was attended with an immense, though successful toil.

^a Owain Gwynedd, prince of North Wales, was descended in a direct line from Roderic the Great, prince of all Wales, who divided his principality amongst his three sons.

^b Iwerddon, the British name of Ireland, hence the Hibernia of the Latins, and *Ἰερν* and *Ἰσέρνια* of the Greeks, probably so called from the British *Y Werdd Ynys*, i. e. the Green Island.

^c Lochlynians, the Danes, so called from the Baltic, which our ancestors called *Llychlyn*. *Llychlyn* is the name of Denmark and Norway, and all those northern regions mentioned in the works of our Bards.

^d Normans. Moses Williams in his notes on the *Æræ Cambro Britannicæ* gives the following account of this battle.

THE Dragon of Mona's ^e sons were so brave in action, that there was a great tumult on their furious attack, and before the prince himself, there was vast confusion, havock, conflict, honourable death, bloody battle, horrible consternation, and upon Tal Moelvre a thousand banners. There was an outrageous ^f carnage, and the rage of spears, and hasty signs of violent indignation. Blood raised the tide of the Menai, and the crimson of human gore stained the brine. There were glittering cuirasses, and the agony of gashing wounds, and the mangled warriors prostrate before the chief, distinguished by his crimson lance. Lloegria was put into confusion, the contest and confusion was great, and the glory of our prince's wide-wasting sword shall be celebrated in an hundred languages to give him his merited praise.

"Normanni, qui in hoc loco Frainc
 "appellantur, erant copiae quas Henricus
 "Secundus in Monam misit A. D.
 "MCLVII. duce Madoco filio Mare-
 "dudii Powisiae principe. Hi ecclesias
 "SS. Mariae et Petri (ut annales nostri
 "referunt) spoliavere. Istae vero ecclesiae
 "in orientali Monae plaga sunt, unde
 "liquet locum Tal Moelvre dictum ali-
 "cubi in Mona esse, fortasse etiam haud
 "procul ab ecclesiis praedictis: omnes
 "vero qui navibus egrediebantur a Monae
 "incolis interfecti sunt." Vide Anna-
 les a Powelo edictos, p. 206, 207.

It seems by Gwalmach's poem to have been a very large fleet, which came partly from Ireland, partly from the Baltic, and the rest from Normandy, to invade the principality. It is plain that its forces were numerous, as they came from so many countries; but it seems they met with a very warm reception, from the prince and his sons; and

that they were glad to sail away as soon as possible.

^e Owen Gwynedd had many sons noted for their valour, especially Howel, who was born of Finnog an Irish lady. He was one of his father's generals in his wars against the English, Flemings, and Normans, in South Wales, and was a noted Bard, as several of his poems, now extant, testify.

^f It seems that the fleet landed in some part of the firth of Menai, and that it was a kind of a mixt engagement, some fighting on shore, others from the ships. And probably the great slaughter was owing to its being low water, and that they could not set sail: otherwise I see no reason, why when they were worsted on land, they should continue the fight in their ships. It is very plain that they were in great distress, and that there was a great havock made of them, as appears from the remainder of this very spirited poem.

VI.

A N E L E G Y

*To * Nest, the daughter of Howel by Einion the son of
Gwalchmai, about the year 1240.*

THE spring returns, the trees are in their bloom, and the forest in it's beauty, the birds chaunt, the sea is smooth, the gently-rising tide sounds hollow, the wind is still. The best armour against misfortune is prayer. But I cannot hide nor conceal my grief, nor can I be still and silent. I have heard the waves raging furiously towards the confines of the land of the sons of ^b Beli. The sea flowed with force, and conveyed a hoarse complaining noise, on account of a Gentle Maiden. I have passed the deep waters of the Teivi ^c with slow steps. I sung the praise of Nest ere she died. Thousands have resounded her name, like that of Elivri ^d. But now I must with a pensive and sorrowful

* Who this lady was is not known at present.

^b What country this is I cannot recollect.

^c Teivi, the name of a large river in Cardiganhire.

^d Elivri, the name of a woman, but who she was, or when she lived, is not clear.

heart compose her elegy, a subject fraught with misery. The bright luminary of * Cadvan was arrayed in silk, how beautiful did she shine on the banks of † Dyfynni, how great was her innocence and simplicity, joined with consummate prudence : she was above the base arts of dissimulation. Now the ruddy earth covers her in silence. How great was our grief, when she was laid in her stony habitation. The burying of Nest was an irreparable loss. Her eye was as sharp as the hawk, which argued her descended from noble ancestors. She added to her native beauty by her goodness and virtue. She was the ornament of Venedotia, and her pride. She rewarded the Bard generously. Never was pain equal to what I suffer for her loss. Oh death, I feel thy sting, thou hast undone me. No man upon earth regretteth her loss like me ; but hard fate regardeth not the impotency of prayers, whenever mankind are destined to undergo its power. O generous Nest, thou liest in thy safe retreat, I am pensive and melancholy like § Pryderi. I store up my sorrow in my breast, and cannot discharge the heavy burden. The dark, lonesome dreary veil, which covereth thy face, is ever before me, which covereth a face that shone like the pearly dew on Eryri^h. I make my humble petition to the great Creator of heaven and earth, and my petition will not be denied, that he grant, that this beautiful maid, who glittered like pearls, may, through the intercession of Holyⁱ Dewi,

* Cadvan is the saint of Towyn Meirionnydd.

† Dyfynni, is the name of a river that runs by Towyn.

§ I cannot recollect at present who this person is, nor the occasion of his grief, though it is mentioned in some of our manuscripts.

h Eryri Snowdon, called Creigian,

Eryri and Mynydd Eryri, i. e. the rocks and mountains of snow, from Eiry, which signifies snow. As Niphates the name of a mountain, from a word of the same signification in Greek.

ⁱ Dewi, St. David, a bishop in the time of king Arthur, and the patron Saint of Wales.

be received to his mercy, that she may converse with the prophets, that she may come into the inheritance of the All-wise God, with Mary and the Martyrs. And in her behalf I will prefer my prayer, which will fly to the throne of Heaven. My love and affection knew no bounds. May she never suffer. Saint Peter be her protector. God himself will not suffer her to be an exile from the mansions of bliss. Heaven be her lot.

VII.

A P O E M

To Llywelyn ap Iorweth, or Llywelyn the Great ;

In which many of his victories are celebrated ;

Composed by Llywarch Brydydd y Moch, a Bard, who, according to Mr. Edward Llwyd of the Musæum's Catalogue of the British writers, flourished about the year 1240 ; but this poem is certainly of more antient date ; for prince Llywelyn died in the year 1240. However that be, the original was taken from Lyfr Coch o Hergest, or the Red book of Hergest, kept in the Archives of Jesus College, Oxon. I have no apology to make for the Bards method of beginning or concluding their poems, but that it was their general custom ever since the introduction of Christianity to this island, which was very early. We have no poems that I know of before that period, but some few remains of the Druids in that kind of verse, called Englyn Milwr. It was the custom of the heathen poets themselves to begin their poems with an invocation of the Supreme Being. As for instance, Theocritus in the beginning of his Idyllium, in praise of Ptolemæus Philadelphus,

Ἐκ Διὸς ἀρχώμεοθα, καὶ εἰς Δία λήγεις, Μοῖσαι.

But I shall not here enter into a critical dissertation of their merits or defects ; my business, as a translator, being to give as faithful a version
4
from

from the original as I possibly could at this distance of time; when many of the matters of fact, the manners of the age, and other circumstances, alluded to in their poems, must remain obscure to those that are best versed in the records of antiquity.

MAY Christ the Creator and Governor of the hosts of heaven and earth defend me from all disasters; may I, through his assistance, be prudent and discreet ere I come to my narrow habitation in the grave. Christ, the Son of God, will give me the gift of song to extol my prince, who giveth the warlike shout with joy. Christ who hath formed me of the four elements, and hath endowed me with the deep and wonderful gift of poetry — Llywelyn is the ruler of Britain and her armour. He is a lion-like brave prince, unmoved in action, the son of ^a Jorwerth, our strength and true friend, a descendant of ^b Owain the destroyer, whose abilities appeared in his youth. He came to be a leader of forces, dressed in blue, neat and handsome. In the conflicts of battle, in the clang of arms, he was an heroic youth. When ten years old he successfully attacked his kinsman ^c. In Aber Conwy, ere my prince, the brave Llywelyn, got his right, he contested with ^d David, who was a bloody chief, like Julius Cæsar. A chief without blemish, not insulting his foes in distress, but in war impetuous and fierce, like the points of flaming fire burning in their rage. It is a general loss to the Bards, that he

^a Jorwerth, surnamed Drwydwn, or with the broken nose, the father of Llywelyn, was the eldest son of Owain Gwynedd, but was not suffered to enjoy his right on an the account of that blemish.

^b Owain Gwynedd, prince of North Wales.

^c Llywelyn was the lawful heir of the

principality of North Wales, in right of his father Jorwerth, and accordingly put in his claim for it, and got it from his uncles David and Rodri, when he was very young.

^d David, the son of Owain Gwynedd, who succeeded his father as prince of Wales.

is covered with earth. We grieve for him. — * Llywelyn was our prince ere the furious contest happened, and the spoils were amassed with eagerness. The purple gore ran over the snow-white breasts of the warriors, and there was an universal havock and carnage after the shout. The parti-coloured waves flowed over the broken spear, and the warriors were silent. The briny wave came with force, and another met it mixed with blood, when we went to Porthaethwy on the steeds of the main over the great roaring of the floods. The spear raged with relentless fury, and the tide of blood rushed with force. Our attack was sudden and fierce. Death displayed itself in all its horrors: So that it was a doubt whether any of us should die of old age. Noble troops, in the fatal hour, trampled on the dead like prancing steeds. Before Rhodri was brought to submission, the church-yards were like fallow grounds. When Llywelyn the successful prince overcome by † Alun with his warriors of the bright arms, ten thousand were killed, and the crows made a noise, and a thousand were taken prisoners. Llywelyn, though in battle he killed with fury, though he burnt like outrageous fire, yet was mild prince when the mead-horns were distributed — — — he a — — — — he gave generously under his waving banners to his numerous Bards gold and silver, which he regardeth not, and Gascony prancing steeds, with rich trappings, and and great scarlet cloaks, shining like the ruddy flame: Warlike, strong, well-made destroying steeds, with streams of foam issuing out of their mouths. He generously bestoweth, like brave Arthur, snow-white steeds by hundreds, whose speed is fleetier than birds.

* This battle is not mentioned by any of our historians. The description is very animated in the original, and very expressive of such a scene. It was fought near Porth Aethwy. The steeds

of the main is a poetical expression for ships.

† Alun, the name of a river in Flintshire, where there was a battle fought by Llywelyn against the English.

THOU that feedest the fowls of the air like ^z Caeawg the hero, the valiant ruler of all Britain, the numerous forces of England tumble and wallow in the field before thee. He bravely atchieved above ^b Deudraeth Dryfan, the feats of the renowned Ogrfani ⁱ. Men fall silently in the field, and are deprived of the rites of sepulture. Thou hast defeated two numerous armies, one in the banks of Alun of the rich soil, where the Normans were destroyed, as the adversaries of Arthur, in the battle of Camlan ^k. The second in Arfon, near the sea-shore - - - - - And two ruling chiefs, flushed with success, encouraged us like lions, and one superior to them both, a stern hero, the ravage of battles, like a man that conquers in all places. Llywelyn with the broken blade of the gilt sword, the waster of Lloegr, a wolf covered with red, with his warriors about Rhuddlan. His forces carry the standard before him waving in the air. Thou art possessed of the valour of ^l Cadwallon, the son of Cadfan. He is for recovering the government of all Britain. He kindly stretched his hand to us, while his enemies fled to the sea-shore, to embark to avoid the imminent destruction, with

^z Caeawg Cynnorawg, is the name of a hero celebrated by Aneurin Gwawdrydd in the Gododin.

^b Deudraeth Cryfan, is the name of some place near the sea, there are many places in Wales called Deudraeth. But where this in particular is situated I cannot guess.

ⁱ Ogrfan Gwr, an antient British prince, cotemporary with king Arthur.

^k Camlan, the name of a place somewhere in Cornwall, where the decisive battle between king Arthur, and his treacherous nephew Medrod happened, who had usurped the sovereignty while he was

absent on a foreign expedition. King Arthur, according to our antient historians, slew Medrod with his own hand; but received his death-wound himself, and retired to Ynys Afallon or Glastenbury, where he soon afterwards died. His death was politically concealed, least it should dispirit the Britons. Hence arose so many fabulous stories about it.

^l Cadwallon, the son of Cadfan, is that victorious king of Britain, who was a terrible scourge to the Saxons. Beda in his ecclesiastical history calls him tyrannum sævientem, an outrageous tyrant.

F

despair

despair in their looks, and no place of refuge remained, and the crimson lance whizzed dreadfully over their brows. We the Bards of Britain, whom our prince entertaineth on the First of January, shall every one of us, in our rank and station, enjoy mirth and jollity, and receive gold and silver for our reward - - -

- - - - -
- - - - -
- - - - -

^m Caer Lleon, the chief of Mon, has brought thee to a low condition. Llewelyn has wasted thy land, thy men are killed by the sea - - -

He has entirely subdued ^a Gwyddgrug, where the English ran away, with a precipitate flight, full of horror and consternation. Thy fields are miserably wasted, thy cloister, and thy neat houses, are ashes. The palace of ^o Elfmer was with rage and fury burnt by fire. Ye all now enjoy peace by submitting to our prince, for wherever he goeth with his forces, whether it be hill or dale, it is the possession of one sole proprietor. Our lion has brought to Trallwng three armies that will never turn their backs, the residence of our enemies ever to be abhorred. The numerous Bards receive diverse favours from him. He took Gwyddgrug. See you who succeeds in ^p Mochnant when he victoriously marches through your country. On it's borders the

^m Caer Lleon Chester, so called, as our historians relate, from Lleon Gawr, or king Lleon, and not from Castra legionum, as modern writers will have it. Cawr antiently signified a king, as Benlli Gwr, is called by Nennius, cap. 30, Rex Benlli; but now it signifies a giant, or a man of an extraordinary strength and stature. It is not improbable but that

the Antient Britons chose such for their kings.

^a Gwyddrug Mold, in Flintshire, so called from Gwydd high, and Crag a hill. Mold is a corruption of Mons altus.

^o Elfmer, the name of a town in Shropshire.

^p Mochnant is a part of Powys.

enemy

enemy were routed, and the ^a Argoedwys were furiously attacked, and covered with blood. We have two palaces now in our possession. Let ^r Powys see who is the valiant king of her people, whether it argueth prudence to act treacherously. Whether a Norman chief be preferable to a conquering Cymro. We have a prince, consider it, who, though silent about his own merit, putteth Lloegr to flight, and is fully bent to conquer the land that was formerly in the possession of Cadwallon, the son of Cadfan, the son of Jago

A noble lion, the governor of Britain, and her defence. Llywelyn, numerous are thy battles, thou brave prince of the mighty, that puttest the enemy to flight. Mayest thou my friend and benefactor overcome in every hardship. He is a prince with terrible looks who will conquer in foreign countries, as well as in Mon the mother of all Wales. His army has made it's way broad thro' the ocean, and filled the hills, promontories and dales. The blood flowed about their feet when the maimed warriors fought. In the battle of ^r Coed Anea, thou, supporter of Bards, didst overthrow thy enemies. The other hard battle was fought at ^r Dygen Ddyfnant, where thousands behaved themselves with manly valour. The next contest, where noble feats were atchieved, was on the hill of ^u Bryn Yr Erw, where they saw

^a Argoedwys, the men of Powys, from Ar above, Coed wood. The Powysians are called, by Llywarch, Hen Gwr Argoed. As Gwyr Argoed eried am porthant, i. e. I was ever maintained by the men of Argoed.

^r The princes of Powys adhered to the kings of England, and the Lords Marchers, against their natural prince, to whom they were to pay homage and obedience, ac-

ording to the division made by Rhodri Mawr, as appears from the Welsh history.

^r Coed Anea, the name of a place, but where situated I cannot guess, where a battle was fought.

^r Dygen Ddyfnant, another place whose situation I am ignorant of, where another battle was fought.

^u Bryn Yr Erw another place unknown.

thee like a lion foremost in piercing thy enemies, like a strong eagle, a safeguard to thy people. Upon this account they will no longer dispute with thee. They vanish before thee like the ghosts of ^w Celyddon. Thou hast taken Gwyddgrug and Dyfnant by force, and Rhuddlan with its red borders, and thousands of thy men overthrew ^x Dinbych, ^y Foelas, and ^z Gronant; and the men of Carnarvon thy friends were busy in action, and Dinas ^a Emreis strove bravely in thy cause, and they vanquished with the renowned ^b Morgant at their head all that stood before them. Thy pledges know not where to turn their faces, they cannot enjoy mirth or rest. Thou wert honourably covered with blood, and thy wound is a glory to thee. When thou didst resist manfully the attack of the enemy, thou wert honoured by thy sword, with thy buckler on thy shoulders. Thou didst bravely lead thy forces, the astonishment of Lloeger, to the borders of ^c Mechain and Mochnant. Happy was the mother who bore thee, who art wise and noble, and freely distributest rich suits of garments, thy gold and silver. And thy Bards celebrate thee for presenting them thy bred steeds, when they sit at thy tables. And I myself am rewarded for my gift of poetry, with gold and distinguished respect. And should I desire of my prince the moon as a present, he would certainly bestow it on me. Thy praise reacheth as far as ^d Lliwelydd, and Llywarch is the man who celebrates with

^w Celyddon, the British name of that part of North Britain, called Caledonia by the Romans.

^x Dinbych, Denbigh.

^y Foelas, or Y Foel las, i. e. the green summit, which is the name of a place in Denbighshire, where there is an old fort, now in the possession of Watkyn Wynn, Esq. colonel of the Denbighshire militia, whose seat is near it.

^z Gronant, the name of a fort or castle in Flintshire.

^a Dinas Emreis or Emrys, the name of a place in Snowdon, near Bedd Celhert, where Gwerthenea attempted to build a castle.

^b Morgant, the name of one of Llywelyn's generals.

^c Mochain, a part of Powys.

^d Caer Liwelydd, Carlisle.

his songs

My praises are not extravagant to thee the prodigy of our age, thou art a prince firm in battle like an elephant. When thou arrivest at the period of thy glory, when thy praises cease to be celebrated by the Bard and the harp, my brave prince, ere thou comest, before thy last hour approaches, to confess thy sins, after thou hast through thy prowess vanquished thy enemies, mayst thou at last become a glorious saint.

VIII.

A N O D E,

In Five P A R T S,

To Llewelyn, the son of Gruffudd, last prince of Wales of the British line, composed by Llygad Gwr, about the year 1270.

I.

I ADDRESS myself to God, the source of joy, the fountain of all good gifts, of transcendent majesty. Let the song proceed to pay it's due tribute of praise, to extol my hero, the prince of ^a Arllechwedd, who is stained with blood, a prince descended from renowned kings. Like Julius Cæsar is the rapid progress of the arms of Gruffudd's heir. His valour and bravery are matchless, his crimson lance is stained with gore. It is natural to him to invade the lands of his enemies. He is generous, the pillar of princes. I never return empty-handed from the North. My successful and glorious prince, I would not exchange on any conditions. I have a renowned prince, who lays

^a Arllechwydd a part of Carnarvonshire.

England waste, descended from noble ancestors. Llywelyn the destroyer of thy foes, the mild and prosperous governour of Gwynedd, Britain's honour in the field, with thy sceptered hand extended on the throne, and thy gilt sword by thy side. The lion of ^b Cemaïs fierce in the onset, when the army rusheth to be covered with red. Our defence who flighteth alliance with strangers, who with violence maketh his way through the midst of his enemies country. His just cause will be prosperous at last. About ^c Tyganwy he has extended his dominion, and his enemies fly from him with maimed limbs, and the blood flows over the soles of men's feet. Thou dragon of ^d Arfon of resistless fury, with thy beautiful well-made steeds, no Englishman shall get one foot of thy country. There is no Cymro thy equal.

II.

THERE is none equal to my prince with his numerous troops in the conflict of war. He is a generous Cymro descended from ^e Beli Hir, if you enquire about his lineage. He generously distributeth gold and riches. An heroic wolf from ^f Eryri. An eagle among his nobles of matchless prowess; it is our duty to extol him. He is

^b Cemaïs, the name of several places in Wales. The Bard means here a cantred of that name in Anglesea.

^c Tyganwy, the name of an old castle near the mouth of the river Conway to the east; it was formerly one of the royal palaces of Maelgwn Gwynedd, king of Britain, and was, as our annals relate, burnt by lightning, ann. 811. but was afterwards rebuilt, and won by the earls of Chester, who held it for a considerable time, but was at last retaken by the princes of North Wales.

^d Arfon, the country now called Carnarvonshire.

^e Beli. This was probably Beli Mawr, to whom our Bards generally traced the pedigree of great men.

^f Eryri, Snowdon, which some suppose derived from Mynydd eryrod, the hill of eagles, but more probably from Mynydd yr erry, the hill of snow. Snowdon, in English, signifies literally the hill of snow, from Snow and Down, that being still a common name for a hill in England, as Barham Downs, Oxford Downs, Burford Downs, &c.

clad in a golden vest in the army, and setteth castles on fire. He is the bulwark of the battle with ^a Greidiawl's courage. He is a hero that with fury breaketh whole ranks, and fighteth manfully. His violence is rapid, his generosity overflowing. He is the strength of armies arrayed in gold. He is a brave prince whose territories extend as far as ^b Teifi, whom no body dares to punish. Llywelyn the vanquisher of England is a noble lion descended from the race of kings. Thou art the king of the Mighty, the entertainer and encourager of Bards. Thou makest the crows rejoice, and the ⁱ Bryneich to vomit blood, they feasted on their carcases. He never avoided danger in the storm of battle, he was undaunted in the midst of hardships. The ^k Bards prophesy that he shall have the government and sovereign power; every prediction is at last to be fulfilled. The shields of his men were stained with red in brave actions from ^l Pulford to the farthest bounds of ^m Cydweli. May he find endless joys, and be reconciled to the Son of God, and enjoy Heaven by his side.

^a Greidiawl, the name of a hero mentioned by Aneurin Gwawdrydd in his *Gododin*.

^b Teifi, the name of a large river in Cardiganshire.

ⁱ Bryneich, the men of Bernicia, a province of the Old Saxons in the North of England. The inhabitants of Deira and Bernicia are called by our antient historians, *Gwyr Deifr a Bryneich*.

^k It was the policy of the British princes to make the Bards foretell their success in war, in order to spirit up their people to brave actions. Upon which account the vulgar supposed them to be real prophets.

Hence the great veneration they had for the prophetic Bards, *Myrddin Emrys*, *Taliesin*, and *Myrddin Wyllt*. This accounts for what the English writers say of the Welsh relying so much upon the prophecies of *Myrddin*. There are many of these pretended prophecies still extant. The custom of prophesying did not cease till Henry the Seventh's time, and the reason is obvious.

^l *Pwlfordd*, is the name of a place in Shropshire. There is a bridge of that name still in that county.

^m *Cydweli*, the name of a town, and *Comot*, in Carmarthenshire.

III.

WE have a prudent prince, his lance is crimson, his shield is shivered to pieces ; a prince furious in action, his palace is open to his friends, but woe is the lot of his enemies. Llywelyn the vanquisher of his adversaries is furious in battle like an outrageous dragon ; to be guarded against him availeth not, when he cometh hand to hand to dispute the hardy contest. May he that made him the happy governor of Gwynedd and its towns, strengthen him for length of years to defend his country from hostile invasion. It is our joy and happiness that we have a brave warrior with prancing steeds, that we have a noble Cymro, descended from Cambrian ancestors, to rule our country and its borders. He is the best prince that the Almighty made of the four elements. He is the best of governors, and the most generous. The eagle of Snowdon, and the bulwark of battle. He pitched a battle where there was a furious contest to obtain his patrimony on ⁿ Cefn Gelowydd ; such a battle never happened since the celebrated action of ^o Arderydd.

HE is the brave lion of Mona, the kind-hearted Venedotian, the valiant supporter of his troops in Bryn Derwyn. He did not repent of the day in which he assaulted his adversaries ; it was like the assault of a

ⁿ Cefn Gelorwydd, is the name of some mountain, but where it is situated I know not.

^o Arderydd, is the name of a place somewhere in Scotland, perhaps, Atterith, about six miles from Solway Frith. This battle is mentioned in the Triades, and was fought by Gwenddolau ap Ceidiaw and Aeddan Tradawg, petty

princes of the North, against Rhydderch Hael, king of Cumbria, who got the battle. Myrddin Wyllt, or Merlin, the Caledonian, was severely handled by Rhydderch Hael, for siding with Gwenddolau, his patron, which he complains of in his poem, entitled, Afallennau, or Apple-trees.

hero descended from undaunted ancestors. I saw a hero disputing with hosts of men like a man of honour in avoiding disgrace. He that saw Llywelyn like an ardent dragon in the conflict of Arfon and ^p Eiddionydd, would have observed that it was a difficult task to withstand his furious attack by ^a Drws Daufynydd. No man has ever compelled him to submit: May the Son of God never put him to confusion.

IV.

LIKE the roaring of a furious lion in the search of prey, is thy thirst of praise, like the sound of a mighty hurricane over the desert main, thou warlike prince of ^t Aberffraw. Thy ravage is furious, thy impetuosity irresistible, thy troops are enterprizing in brave actions, they are fierce and furious like a conflagration. Thou art the warlike prince of ^s Dinefwr, the defence of thy people, the divider of spoils. Thy forces are comely and neat, and of one language. Thy proud Toledo sword is gilt with gold, and its edge broke in war. Thou prince of ^t Mathrafal, extensive are the bounds of thy dominions, thou rulest people of four languages. He staid undaunted in battle against a foreign nation, and its strange language. May the

^p Eiddionydd, now Eifionydd, the name of a Commot, or district, in Carnarvonshire.

^a Drws Daufynydd, is the name of a pass between two hills, but where it lies I know not. Drws Daufynydd signifies, literally, the door of the two hills. There are many passes in Wales denominated from Drws, as Drws Ardudwy, Drws y Ceed, Bwlch Oerddrws, &c.

^t Aberffraw, the name of a prince's chief palace in Anglesea.

^s Dinefwr, the name of the prince of South Wales's palace, pleasantly situated upon a hill above the river Towi, in Carmarthenshire, now in the possession of George Rice, of Newton, esquire, member of parliament for that county.

^t Mathrafal, the seat of the prince of Powys, not far from Pool, in Montgomeryshire, now in the possession of the earl of Powys.

great

great King of Heaven defend the just cause of the warlike prince of the three provinces.

V.

I make my address to God, the source of praise, in the best manner I am able, that I may extol with suitable words the chief of men, who rageth like fire from the flashes of lightning, who exchangeth thrusts with the burnished steel. I stand in armour by the side of my prince with the red spear in the conflict of war, he is a brave fighter, and the foremost in action. Llywelyn, thy qualities are noble, I will valiantly make my path broad with the edge of my sword. May the prints of the hoofs of my prince's steeds be seen as far as Cornwall. Numerous are the persons that congratulate him upon this success, who is a sure friend. The lion of Gwynedd, and its extensive territories, the governour of the men of Powys, and the South, who hath a general assembly of his armed troops at Chester, who ravageth Lloegr to amass spoils. In battle his success is certain, in killing, burning, and in overthrowing castles. In ^u Rhos and Penfro, and in contests with the Normans, his impetuosity prevaleth. The offspring of Gruffudd, of worthy qualities, generous in distributing rewards for songs. His shield shines, and the strong lances quickly meet the streams of gushing gore. He extorteth taxes from his enemies, and claimeth another country, as a sovereign prince. His noble birth is an ornament to him. He besiegeth fortified towns, and his furious attacks like those of ^w Fflamddwyn reach far. He is a prosperous chief with princely qualities, his Bards are comely

^u Rhos and Penfro, the names of two prince, against whom Urien, king of Cantreds, in Pembrokeshire. Cumbria, and his son Owain, fought the

^w Fflamddwyn, the name of a Saxon battle of Argoed Llwyfein.

44 SPECIMENS OF ANTIENT POEM VIII.

about his tables. I have seen him generously distributing his wealth, and his mead-horns filled with generous liquors. Long may he live to defend his borders with his sharp sword, like Arthur with the lance of steel. May he who is lawful king of Cymru endued with princely qualities have his share of happiness at the right hand of God.

IX.

A P O E M,

*Intituled the Ode of the Months, composed by Gwilym Ddu
of Arfon, to Sir Gruffudd Llwyd, of Tregarnedd and
Dinorweg.*

Why the Bard called this piece the "Ode of the Months" I cannot guess; but by what he intimates in the poem, which is, that when all nature revives, and the whole animal and vegetable creation are in their full bloom and vigour, he mourned and pined for the decay'd state of his country. The hero he celebrates made a brave but successless attempt to rescue it from slavery. It will not be amiss to give a short account of that inhuman massacre of the Bards made by that cruel tyrant Edward the First, which gave occasion to a very fine Ode by Mr. Grey. Sir John Wynne, of Gwydir, a descendant in a direct line from Owain Gwynedd, mentions this particular, and says, he searched all the records in the Exchequer at Carnarvon, and in the Tower of London, for the antiquities of his country in general, and of his own family in particular. I shall set down his own words, as I find them in a very fair copy of that history lent me by Sir Roger Mostyn, of Gloddaitb

and Mostyn, Bart. a person no less eminent for his generous communicative temper, than for many other public and private virtues.

“ This is the most antient song (i. e. one of Rhys Goch of Eryri’s,
 “ a Bard who flourished A. D. 1400) I can find extant of my
 “ ancestors since the reign of Edward the First, who caused our Bards
 “ all to be hanged by martial law, as stirrers of the people to sedition;
 “ whose example being followed by the governors of Wales until Henry
 “ the Fourth’s time, was the utter destruction of that sort of men; and
 “ sithence that kind of people were at some further liberty to sing, and
 “ to keep pedigrees, as in antient time they were wont; since which time
 “ we have some light of antiquity by their songs and writings,” &c.

It is not improbable that our Bard might have been one of those who suffered in the cause of his country, though he had the good luck to escape Edward’s fury. I wish I may be so happy as to convey some faint idea of his merit to the English reader. The original has such touches, as none but a person in the Bard’s condition could have expressed so naturally. However not to anticipate the judicious reader’s opinion, to which I submit mine with all deference, I shall now produce some account of this great man, taken from that skilful and candid antiquary Mr. Robert Vaughan of Hengwrt’s notes on Dr. Powel’s history of Wales, printed at Oxford, 1663.

“ Sir Gruffudd Llwyd, knight, the son of Rhys ap Gruffudd ap
 “ Ednyfed Fychan, was a valiant gentleman, but unfortunate, “ mag-
 “ næ quidem, sed calamitosæ virtutis,” as Lucius Florus saith of
 “ Sertorius. He was knighted by king Edward, when he brought
 “ him the first news of his queen’s safe delivery of a son at Car-
 “ narvon Castle; the king was then at Rhuddlan, at his parliament
 “ held there. This Sir Gruffudd afterwards taking notice of the
 “ extreme

"extreme oppression and tyranny exercised by the English officers, especially Sir Roger Mortimer, lord of Chirk, and justice of North Wales, towards his contrymen the Welsh, became so far discontented, that he broke into open rebellion, verifying that saying of Solomon, 'Oppression maketh a wise man mad.' He treated Sir Edward Bruce, brother to Robert, then king of Scotland, who had conquered Ireland, to bring or send over men to assist him in his design against the English; but Bruce's terms being conceived too unreasonable, the treaty came to nought; however being desperate, he gathered all the forces he could, and, in an instant, like a candle that gives a sudden blaze before it is out, overran all North Wales and the Marches, taking all the castles and holds; but to little purpose, for soon after he was met with, his party discomfited, and himself taken prisoner. This was in the year of our Lord 1322."

I thought so much by way of introduction necessary to commemorate so gallant a person; what became of him afterwards is not mentioned by our historians. However the following poem remains not only as a monument of the hero's bravery, but of the Bard's genius.

BEFORE the beginning of May I lived in pomp and grandeur, but now, alas! I am deprived of daily support, the time is as disastrous, as when our Saviour Christ was taken and betrayed. How naked and forlorn is our condition! We are exposed to anxious toils and cares. O how heavy is the Almighty's punishment, that the crimson sword cannot be drawn! I remember how great it's size was, and how wide it's havock; numerous are now the oppressed captives who languish in gnashing indignation. Our native Bards are excluded from their accustomed entertainments. How great a
 stop

stop is put to generosity since a munificent hero, like Nudd^a, is confined in prison. The valorous hawk of^b Gruffudd, so renowned for ravaging and destroying his enemies, is deplored by the expert Bards, who have lost their festivity and mirth in the place where mead was drunk. I cannot bear to think of his injurious treatment. His hospitality has fed thousands. He is, alas! in a forlorn prison, such is the unjust oppression of the^c land of the Angles. Years of sorrow have overwhelmed me. I reckon not what becomes of the affairs of this world. The Bards of two hundred regions lament that they have now no Protector. This is certain, but a sad truth. Though the unthinking vulgar do not reflect as I do on the time when my eagle shone in his majesty. I am pierced by the lance of despair. Hard is the fate of my protector, ^d Gwynedd is in a heavy melancholy mood, its inhabitants are oppressed because of their transgressions. Long has the bright sword, that shone like a torch, been laid aside, and the brave courage of the dauntless Achilles been stopped. The whole pleasant season of May is spent in dismal sorrow; and June is comfortless and cheerless. It increaseth my tribulation, that Gruffudd with the red lance is not at liberty. I am covered with chilly damps. My whole fabric shakes for the loss of my chief. I find no intermission to my pain. May I sink, O Christ! my Saviour, into the grave, where I can have repose; for now, alas! the office of the Bard is but a vain and empty name. I am surprized that my despair has not burst my heart, and that it is not rent through the

^a Nudd Hael, or the Generous, one of the three liberal heroes of Britain mentioned in the Triades, and celebrated by Taliesin.

^b Gruffudd Llwyd, the hero of the poem, was the son of Rhys, the son of Gruffudd, the son of the famous Ednyfed

Fychan, seneschall to Llywelyn the great, and a brave warrior.

^c The land of the Angles, i. e. England.

^d Gwynedd, the name of the country, called by the Romans Venedotia, but by the English North Wales.

midst

midst in twain. The heavy stroke of care affails my memory, when I think of his confinement, who was endowed with the valour of ^e Urien in battle. My meditation on past misfortunes is like that of the skilful ^f Cywyrdd the Bard of Dunawd^g. My praise to the worthy hero is without vicious flattery, and my song no less affecting than his. My panegyric is like the fruitful genius of ^h Afan

^e Urien Reged, a famous king of Cumbria, who fought valiantly with the Saxons, whose brave actions are celebrated by Taliesin and Llywarch Hen. He is mentioned by Nennius, the ancient British historian, who wrote about A. D. 858. This writer is terribly mangled by his editors, both at home and abroad, from their not being versed in the British language. I have collected some manuscripts of his history, but cannot meet a genuine one without the interpolations of Samuel Beulom, otherwise I would publish it. I have in my possession many notes upon this author, collected from ancient British manuscripts, as well as English writers, who have treated of our affairs. This I have been enabled to do, chiefly by having access to the curious library at Llannerch, by the kind permission of the late Robert Davies, esquire, and since by his worthy son John Davies, esquire, which I take this opportunity gratefully to acknowledge.

^f Cywyrdd, this Bard is not mentioned either by Dr. Davies or Mr. Edward Llwyd, in their catalogues of British writers. It seems he flourished in the sixth century, as did all the ancient British Bards we have now extant. Here let me obviate what may be objected to me as mentioning so many facts, and persons who lived in the sixth century, within the course of this performance. It was the last period our kings fought with any

success against the Saxons, and it was natural, therefore, for the Bards of those times, to record such gallant acts of their princes, and for their successors to transmit them to posterity. Every person, though but slightly versed in the British history of that time, knows that Cadwaladr was the last king of Britain. Since his time there are no works of the Bards extant till after the conquest, as I have shewed in my *Dissertatio de Bardis*.

^g Dunawd, the son of Pabo Post Prydain, one of the heroes of the sixth century, who fought valiantly with the Saxons.

^h Afan Ferddig, was the Bard of the famous Cadwallawn, son of Cadfan king of Britain. I have got a fragment of a poem of his composition on the death of his patron Cadwallawn; and as far as I understand it, it is a noble piece, but very obscure on account of its great antiquity; as are the works of all the Bards who wrote about his time. It is as difficult a task, for a modern Welshman to endeavour to understand those venerable remains, as for a young scholar just entered upon the study of the Greek language to attack Lycophron or Pindar, without the help of a dictionary or scholiast. How Mr. Mackpherson has been able to translate the *Erse* used in the time of Ossian, who lived a whole century at least before the earliest British Bard now extant, I cannot comprehend. I wish some of those that

H

Ferddig

Ferddig in celebrating[†] Cadwallwn of royal enterprizes. I can no more sing of the lance, in well-laboured verse. Since thou dost not live, what avails it that the world has any longer continuance? Every region proclaims thy generosity. The world droops since thou art lost. There are no entertainments or mirth, Bards are no longer honoured: The palaces are no longer open, strangers are neglected, there are no caparizoned steeds, no trusty endearing friendship. No, our country mourns, and wears the aspect of Lent. There is no virtue, goodness, or any thing commendable left among us, but vice, dissoluteness, and cowardice bear the sway. The great and towering strength of ^k Allon is become an empty shadow; and the inhabitants of Arfon¹ are become insignificant below the ford of Rheon^m. The lofty land of Gwynedd is become weak. The heavy blow of care strikes her down. We must now renounce all consolation. We are confined in a close prison by a merciless unrelenting enemy; and what avails a bloody and brave contest for liberty.

are well versed in the Erse or Irish language, would be so kind to the public, as to clear these matters; for I can hardly believe that the Erse language hath been better preserved than the British.

[†] Cadwallon, the son of Cadfan, the most victorious king of Britain, fought many battles with the Saxons; and, among the rest, that celebrated one of Meigin, in which he slew Edward king of Mercia, where the men of Powys behaved themselves with distinguished bravery; and had from thence several privileges granted them by that brave prince. These privileges are mentioned by Cynddelw Brydydd Mawr, a Powysian Bard, in a poem, intituled Breiniau Gwr Powys,

or the Privileges of the men of Powys, which is in my custody.

^k Mon, the Mona of the Latins, called by the English Anglesey, in which at a place called Aberffraw, was the palace of the princes of North Wales. The Bard seems here to hint at the loss of Llywelyn ap Gruffudd the last prince of Wales of the British line.

¹ Arvon, the country now called Carnarvonshire.

^m Rheon, the name of a river in Carnarvonshire, often mentioned by the Bards; but it must have altered its name since, for I do not recollect any such river which bears that name at present.

HAVING finished the present small collection of the British Bards, I take this opportunity to acquaint the reader, that the time in which they flourished is not accurately set down, by Dr. Davies, at the end of his Dictionary, nor by Mr. Llwyd, of the Museum, in his Catalogue of British Writers, in the *Archæologia Britannica*. Indeed it is impossible to be so exact, as to fix the year when the Bards wrote their several pieces, unless the actions they celebrate are mentioned in our Annals, because some of them lived under several princes. This I thought proper to mention, lest any should blame the translator for his inaccuracy, in settling the Chronology of the Poems.

*A short Account of TALIESIN, the Chief of
Bards, and ELPHIN, the Son of GWYDDNO
GARANIR his Patron.*

G Wyddno Garanir, was a petty king of Crantre'r Gwaelod, whose country was drowned by the sea, in a great inundation that happened about the year 560, through the carelessness of the person into whose care the dams were committed, as appears from a poem of Taliesin upon that sad catastrophe. In his time the famous Taliesin lived, whose birth and education is thus related in our ancient manuscripts. He was found exposed in a wear belonging to Gwyddno, the profit of which he had granted to his son, prince Elphin, who being an extravagant youth, and not finding the usual success, grew melancholy; and his fishermen attributed his misfortune to his riotous irregular life. When the prodigal Elphin was thus bewailing his misfortune; the fishermen espied a coracle with a child in it, enwrapped in a leathern bag, whom they brought to the young prince, who ordered care to be taken of him, and when he grew up gave him the best education, upon which he became the most celebrated Bard of his time. The accomplished Taliesin was introduced by Elphin to his father Gwyddno's court, where he delivered him a poem, giving an account of himself, intituled, Hanes Taliesin, or Taliesin's History; and at the same time another to his patron and benefactor Elphin, to console him upon his past misfortune, and to exhort him to put his trust in Divine Providence. This

is

is a fine moral piece, and very artfully addressed by the Bard, who introduces himself in the person and character of an exposed infant. As it is probable that the prince's affairs took another turn since that period; this was done with great propriety. Sir John Price mentions the poem, that Taliesin delivered to king Gwyddno, in his *Historiæ Britannicæ defensio*. "Taliesinus quidem in odula, quam
" de suis erroribus composuit, sic inscripta Britannicè (Hanes Taliesin)
" videlicet errores Taliesini, ait se tandem divertisse ad reliquias
" Trojæ;

" Mi a ddaethum yma at Weddillion Troia."

" neque dubitandum est hoc fuisse opus Taliesini: nam præter innu-
" meros codices vetustissimos, qui inscriptionem hujusmodi attesten-
" tur, nullo reclamante, nullus est recentiorum qui vel phrasin illius
" tam antiquam, carminisve majestatem assequi potuit. Et ideo sum-
" mus ille vates inter Britannos censetur et nominatur." I never
could procure a perfect nor correct copy of this poem of Taliesin,
otherwise I would gratify the curious with a translation of it. It is
certain from his history, that he was a very learned man for his time,
and seems to have been well versed in the doctrine of the Druids, par-
ticularly the *μετεμψύχωσις*, which accounts for the extravagant flights
frequent in his poems. I have now in my possession above fifty of
them; but they are so very difficult to be understood, on account of
their great antiquity, and numerous obsolete words, and negligence
of transcribers, that it is too great a task for any man at this distance
of time to go about a translation of them. However I have selected
this ode, as a specimen of his manner of writing, not as it is the
best in the collection, but as it is the only one I could thoroughly under-
stand. There are many spurious pieces fathered upon this Bard, in
a great many hands in North Wales; but these are all forged either
by

by the monks, to answer the purposes of the church of Rome, or by the British Bards, in the time of the latter princes of Wales, to spirit up their countrymen against the English, which any body versed in the language may easily find by the style and matter. It has been my luck to meet with a manuscript of all his genuine pieces now extant, which was transcribed by the learned Dr. Davies, of Mallwyd, from an old manuscript on vellum of the great antiquary Mr. R. Vaughan, of Hengwrt. This transcript I have shewn to the best antiquaries and critics in the Welsh language now living. They all confess that they do not understand above one half of any of his poems. The famous Dr. Davies could not, as is plain from the many obsolete words he has left without any interpretation in his dictionary. This should be a caveat to the English reader concerning the great antiquity of the poems that go under the name of Ossian, the son of Fingal, lately published by Mr. Mackpherson. It is great pity Taliesin is so obscure, for there are many particulars in his poems that would throw great light upon the history, notions, and manners of the ancient Britons, especially of the Druids, a great part of whose learning it is certain he had imbibed. This celebrated Bard was in great favour with all the great men of his time, particularly with Maelgwn Gwynedd, the warlike and victorious king of all Britain, with Elphin his patron, whom he redeemed with his songs from the castle of Tyganwy, where he was upon some account confined by his uncle Maelgwn. He likewise celebrated the victories of Urien Regen, king of Cumbria, and a great part of Scotland, as far as the river Clyde. In short, he was held in so great esteem by posterity, that the Bards mentioned him with the greatest honour in their works. In his poem, intituled, Aurheg Urien, or Urien's present, he says, that his habitation was, by Llyn Geirionnydd, in the parish of of Llan Rhychwyn, in Carnarvonshire, and mentions therein

therein his cotemporary, the famous Aneirin Gwawdrydd, author of the Gododin, an heroic poem, on the battle of Catteraeth, of which some account is given in the *Dissertatio de Bardis*.

A wn ni enw Aneirin Gwawdrydd Awenydd
A minnau Daliesin o lann Llyn Geirionnydd.

i. e. I know the fame of that celebrated genius Aneirin Gwawdrydd, who am Taliesin, whose habitation is by the pool Geirionnydd. —

HAVING finished this short account of our author, I shall now proceed to his poem, intitled, *Dyhuddiant Elphin*, or *Elphin's Consolation*, which I offer now to the public.

DR. John David Rhys quotes it at length in his *Linguae Cymraecae Institutiones Accuratæ*; which to save further trouble I shall beg leave to transcribe here in his own words. “*Cæterum nunc et propter eorum auctoritatem, et quod huic loco inter alia maxime quadrant, non pigebit quædam antiquissima Taliesini Cambro-Britannica Carmina subjungere, &c.*”

I HAVE nothing more to acquaint the reader with, but that I have used two copies in my translation; one in print by the said Dr. John David Rhys, the other in manuscript by Dr. Thomas Williams. I have followed the copy I thought most correct, and have given the different reading of the manuscript in the margin.

X. TALIESIN'S.

X.

TALIESIN'S POEM

*To Elphin, the Son of Gwyddno Garanir, king of Cantrer's
Gwaelod, to comfort him upon his ill success at the Wear;
and to exhort him to trust in Divine Providence:*

I.

FAIR Elphin, cease to weep, let no man be discontented with his fortune; to despair avails nothing. It is not that which man sees that supports him. Cynllo's prayer will not be ineffectual. God will never break his promise. There never was in Gwyddno's Wear such good luck as to-night.

II.

FAIR Elphin, wipe the tears from thy face! Pensive melancholy will never profit thee; though thou thinkest thou hast no gain; certainly too much sorrow will do thee no good; doubt not of the great Creator's wonders; though I am but little, yet am I endowed with great gifts. From the seas and mountains, and from the bottom of rivers, God sends wealth to the good and happy man.

III.

ELPHIN with the lovely qualities, thy behaviour is unmanly, thou oughtest not to be over pensive. To trust in God is better than to forebode evil. Though I am but small and slender on the beach of the foaming main, I shall do thee more good in the day of distress than three hundred salmons.

IV.

ELPHIN with the noble qualities, murmur not at thy misfortune: Though I am but weak on my leathern couch, there dwelleth a gift on my tongue. While I continue to be thy protection, thou needest not fear any disaster. If thou desirest the assistance of the ever blessed Trinity, nothing can do thee hurt.

D E
B A R D I S
DISSERTATIO;

IN QUA NONNULLA

Quæ ad eorum antiquitatem et munus respiciunt,

Et ad præcipuos qui in CAMBRIA floruerunt,

BREVITER DISCUTIUNTUR.

STUDIO ET OPERA

E V A N I E V A N S, Cereticensis.

*Si quid mea carmina possunt,
Aonio statuam sublimi vertice Bardos;
Bardos Pieridum cultores, atque canentis
Phæbi delicias, quibus est data cura perennis
Dicere nobilium clarissima facta virorum,
Aureaque excelsam famam super astra locare.*

JOH. LELANDUS in Assertionem ARTURII.

B A R D I S

D I S S E R T A T I O

IN QUA NOVITIA

Quae ad coram imperatorem et principes respiciunt

Et ad principum qui in Camera Imperatoris

BRITANNIAE RESIDENTI

STUDIOSI OPERA

E V A N G E L I S C O M P O S I T A

Si quis non cognoverit

hunc librum non debet

perire sed in

publica bibliotheca

deponi debet

ut sit in

omni tempore

INSIGNI VIRO
GVLIELMO VAVGHAN
DE CORS Y GEDOL ARMIGERO,
E T

IN SENATV BRITANNICO
PRO COMITATV MEIRIONNYDD DELEGATO,
PROVINCIAE PRAEFECTO, ROTVLORVM CVSTODI,
SOCIETATIS CYMMRODORION LONDINI
PRAESIDI SUMMO,
CAETERISQVE EIUSDEM SOCIETATIS MEMBRIS,
HANC DE *BARDIS* DISSERTATIONEM,
SUMMA, QVA PAR EST, OBSERVANTIA

D. D. D.

EVANVS EVANS.

INSIGNI VIRO
GVLIELMO VAVGHAN
DE CORRY GEDOL ARMIGERO

ET
IN SENATU BRITANNICO
PRO COMITATU MERITORUM D. DELLEGATO
PROVINCIAE PRAEFECTO, ROTULORVM CUSTODI

SOCIETATIS GYMNASIORUM LONDINENSIS
PRAESIDI S. V. M. M. O.

CAETERISQUE EIVSDEM SOCIETATIS MEMBRIS
HANC DE REBUS DISSERTATIONEM

SVMMAM, QVA PAR EST, OBSERVANTIA

D. D. D.

E. V. A. N. S. R. V. A. N. S.

D E

B A R D I S

D I S S E R T A T I O ;

QUUM per multos annos non sine summa voluptate Bardos Britannos horis subficivis evolverem, et quum hac ætate fere in desuetudinem abiire ejusmodi studia, et quicquid est Britannicæ antiquitatis nostrorum pereat incuriâ, non potui quin hanc qualem qualem rudi Minerva dissertatiunculam in vulgus emitterem, quo exteris melius innotescat, quantum in his olim profecere nos-
trates.

BARDI apud Celtas originem habuerunt ; et Græci, qui eorum memin-
erunt, mira omnino de illis produnt, quæ eo magis fidem me-
rentur quod non solebant laudes suas in Barbaros effusè impendere.
Cum alibi gentium hodie nulla eorum maneat vestigia nisi apud
Cambro-Britannos et Hibernos, Celtarum posteros ; è re fore duxi,
si aliquid de antiquioribus qui apud nos extant, prælibarem, præ-
missis de iis in genere ex Scriptoribus Græcis et Latinis elogiis, quod

augustius in scenam prodeant, et inde venerandæ antiquitatis auctoritatem sibi vindicent.

~~UNDE Bardī nomen~~ sunt fortiti, nondum mihi constat; ANNII enim VITERBIENSIS regem Bardum, uti et omnia ejus hujuscemodi commenta, penitus rejicio. Non omnino abludit vox *Bār* furor, modo fit ille poeticus quo se agitari fingeant Bardī. Si ea fuerit vocis origo, necesse est ut primitus scriberetur *Barydd*. Utcunque sit, nos a multis retrò Seculis furorem illum poeticum voce AWEN designamus, quæ deduci potest a Gwên, *risus* vel *lætitia*: Poetæ enim munus est ut homines cantu exhilaret. Non multum ergo contendimus an ea sit vocis origo, cum vocabulorum antiquorum, cujuscumque sunt hominum, officiorum, urbium, montium et fluviorum sit admodum obscura significatio.

HIS de Bardorum origine præmissis, ad eorum pergamus munus, prout Scriptores Græci et Latini tradiderunt. Primus sit DIODORUS SICULUS, qui hæc scribit. 'Εἰσὶ καὶ παρ' αὐτοῖς καὶ ποιηταὶ μελῶν, ὧς ΒΑΡΔΟΥΣ ὀνομάζουσι, ἔτι δὲ μετ' ὀργάνων ταῖς λύραις ὁμοίων ἄδοντες, ὧς μὲν ὕμνοι, ὧς δὲ βλασφημῶσι^a. Non multum dissimile est quod de illis prodit AMMIANUS MARCELLINUS. "Bardī (inquit ille) fortia virorum illustrium facta heroicis composita versibus cum dulcibus "lyræ modulis cantitarunt." His POSSIDONII apud ATHENAEUM verba addere lubet, qui eorum munus graphicè depingit. Κελοὶ περιάγονται μεθ' αὐτῶν, καὶ πολεμῶντες συμβιωτὰς ὧς καλῶσι παρασίτας. ἔτι δὲ ἐγκώμια αὐτῶν, καὶ πρὸς ἀθρόους λέγουσιν ἀνθρώπους συνεσῶτας, καὶ πρὸς ἕκαστον τῶν κατὰ μέρος ἐκείνων ἀκροωμένων. τὰ δὲ ἀκρόσματα αὐτῶν εἰσὶν οἱ καλῶμενοι ΒΑΡΔΟΙ. ποιηταὶ δὲ ἔτι τυγχάνουσι μετ' ᾠδῆς ἐπαίνους λέγοντες^b.

^a P. 213. H. Steph. Edit. 1559.

^b P. 246. D.

Hinc

Hinc manifesto liquet eorum præcipuum munus fuisse Heroum laudes in cælum evehere. Sed quum nulla Celticorum vel Gallicorum extent Bardorum opera, ex quibus quam dignè munus gesserint evincatur, operæ pretium est, alium ex eodem ΑΘΗΝΑΙΟ locum adducere, ex quo patebit hautquaquam iis defuisse sublime dicendi genus, quod Græci ὕψος vocant. Posidonius, Luernii, qui Bittitis pater fuit à Romanis profligati, opes cùm enarrat, tradit eum popularem gratiam aucupantem, per agros curru vehi solitum, aurumque et argentum in turbas Celtarum innumeras eum prosequentes spargere: quin et septum eundem quadratum stadiorum duodecim aliquando cinxisse, in quo potione sumptuosa et exquisita pleni lacus essent, paratæque cibariorum copia, ut complusculis diebus liceret iis quibus placeret, ingredi, fruíque illo apparatu, cum assiduis ministrorum officiis. Epularum diem aliquando cùm ille constituisset, ac præfinisset, barbarum quendam Poetam tardius cæteris eo commeantem illi occurrisset, ac canentem laudes ejus, excellentesque virtutes celebrasse, vicem verò suam doluisse, ac deflevisse, quòd serius adventasset: illum cantu delectatum auri sacculum poposcisse, et accurrenti cantori projecisse: quo sublato, poetam ejus rursus laudes iterantem prædicasse currus, quo vehebatur, impressa in terram vestigia aurum et beneficia procreare mortalibus. Sed præstat ipsa ΑΘΗΝΑΙΕΙ verba apponere.

Ἐπὶ ὁ Ποσειδῶνι Ⓞ διηγούμενος καὶ τὸν Λουερνίου τῷ Βιβύτιος πατρὸς πλωτὸν, τὴν ὑπὸ Ῥωμαίων καθαιρεθῆναι Ⓞ, φησὶ, δημαγωγῆναι αὐτὸν τὰς ὄχλους ἐν ἄρματι φέρεσθαι διὰ τῶν πεδίων, καὶ σπείρειν χρυσὸν, καὶ ἀργυρὸν τῷ ἀκολουθήσας τῷ Κελτῶν μυριάσι, φράγμα τε ποιεῖν δωδεκάσκιον τετράγωνον, ἐν ᾧ πληρὴν ληνὰς πολυελοῦς πόματι Ⓞ, παρασκιάζειν τε πρὸς τὰ βρομέατα πλῆθος Ⓞ, ὥστε ἐφ' ἡμέρας πλείονας ἐξεῖναι πῖς βουλομένοισι τῶν παρασκιάσθεντων ἀπολαύειν, ἀδιαλείπτως διακονουμένοις. Ἀφορίσαντος δ' αὐτὸν προθεσμίαν πρὸς τῆς θοινῆς, ἀφυσέρησαντά τινα τῶν Βαρβάρων ποιήτην ἀφικέσθαι, καὶ συναντήσαντα μετ' αὐτοῦ ὕμνεον αὐτῷ τὴν ὑπεροχὴν, ἑαυτὸν δ' ὑποθρῆναι ὅτι ὑσέρηκε τὸν δὲ τετραφθένα

K

θυλάκιον

θυλάκιον αἰῶσαι χρυσίῳ, καὶ ῥήσαι αὐτῶ παρατρέχοντι, ἀνελέμδμον δ' ἐκεῖνον
 πάλιν ὑμεῖν, λέγοντα, ΔΙΟΤΙ ΤΑ ΙΧΝΗ ΤΗΣ ΓΗΣ (ΕΦ ΗΣ ΑΡΜΑ-
 ΤΗΛΑΤΕΙ) ΧΡΥΣΟΝ ΚΑΙ ΕΥΕΡΓΕΣΙΑΣ ΑΝΘΡΩΠΟΙΣ ΦΕΡΕΙ·

HAEC sunt quæ (ut pote cui ad Bibliothecas aditus non patet) de antiquis illis in medium proferre licuit. Ad nostros jam venio in quibus non defunt veri et genuini ὕψος exempla. Nequaquam suo genere Græcis et Latinis poetis cedunt nostri Bardi, quamvis ad eorum normam carmina non texerunt. Quid enim nobis cum exteris? An eorum modulo et pede nostra poemata metenda sunt? Quid, ut taceam de Arabicis et Brachmanicis, et in Europa boreali Scaldis? quid fiet, inquam, de antiquioribus illis Sacrosanctis poetis? quid fiet de JOBO, DAVIDE, et siqui alii θεοδιδάκτοι poetæ? Sed hæc a proposito nostro aliena sunt.

QUUM res Britonum, ingruentibus Pictis, Scotis, et Saxonibus, labe-
 rentur, dici non potest, quantam libris et veteribus nostrorum mo-
 numentis stragem ediderint: adeo ut Bardi et historici verè antiqui,
 sint admodum rari. E nostris historicis qui Bardorum meminit, pri-
 mus est GILDAS NENNIUS, qui scripsit, uti ipse narrat, anno
 858, et quarto MERVINI regis. Sed is locus in nonnullis exempla-
 ribus deest, et ejus auctor clarissimo VAUGHANO, NENNIO antiquior
 esse videtur, qui eum "vetustum Saxonicae genealogiae autorem" no-
 minat. Sive verò is fuerit NENNIUS, quod mihi videtur, sive, uti
 ille mavult, aliquis eo vetustior, omnia quæ ibi narrantur quam ve-
 rissima sunt, quamvis scribentium oscitantia quam foedissime sint de-
 pravata. Nec mendas castigarunt editores GALE et BERTRAM.
 Quæ ad Bardos sic se habent. "Item TALHAIARN TATANGEN in
 " poemate claruit, et NUEVIN, et TALIESIN, et BLUCHBAR, et
 " CIAN.

“CIAN qui vocatur GWEINCHGWANT, simul uno tempore in
 “poemate Britannico claruerunt.” Qui locus sic restitui debet.
 “Item TALHAIARN TATANGWN claruit, et ANEURIN, et TA-
 “LIESIN, et LLYWARCH, et CIAN qui vocatur GWYNGWN simul
 “uno tempore in poemate Britannico claruerunt.” Ex iis quos hic
 nominat NENNIUS tres tantum extant, nempe ANEURIN, TALIESIN
 et LLYWARCH cognomento HEN. Meminit tamen TALHAIARNI
 TALIESINUS in poemate cui titulus *Angar Cyfyndawd*, i. e. *Concordia
 discors*.

*Trwy jaith TALHAIARN,
 Bedydd bi ddydd farn.*

“EX TALHAIARNI sententia
 Expiatio erit per baptismum in die supremo.”

Uti et CIANI in eodem poemate.

*CIAN pan ddarfu
 Lliaws gyfolu.*

“Quando CIANUS multos carmine celebraret.”

Meminit et ejudem ANEURINUS in suo poemate Heroico, cui nomen
Gododin.

Un mabân y Gïan o faen Gwyngwn.

“Unicus CIANI filius ex valido Gwyngwn ortus.”

SED quum eorum opera aboleverit ætas, nihil ultra de iis dicere possumus. Hoc saltem constat, si NENNLO fides adhibenda sit, eos suo seculo Bardos fuisse eximios. ANEURINUS, TALIESINUS et LLYWARCH HEN habent multa notatu digna, et quæ rei istius seculi historicæ multum lucis adferunt. Sed quum eorum sint rarissima exemplaria, intellectu sunt quam difficillima, quod fit partim ob scribentium oscitantiam, partim ob linguam vetustam et obsoletam, quæ in nullo Lexico vel glossario inveniri potest. Unde fit, ut sæpe *non plus dimidio* vel a peritissimo intelligatur. TALIESINUS quem nostrates *Pen Beirdd*; i. e. Bardorum Coryphæum appellavere, in aulis Britanniae principum vixit, et ibi clara eorum in bello facinora cantavit. Patronos habuit MAELGWN GWYNEDD, eum scilicet quem GILDAS MAGLOCUNUM vocat; et URIENUM Regedensem Cumbriae principem et ELPHINUM filium GWYDDNO GARANIR Dominum *Cantref Gwaelod*, cujus regio a mari absorpta est circa annum 540. Floruerunt TALIESINUS et ANEURIN GWAWDRYDD *Mychdeyrn Beirdd*, i. e. Bardorum Monarcha, eodem tempore, circa annum 570. ANEURINUS, in suo poemate cui titulus *Gododin*, refert se in bello juxta *Cattraeth* sub auspiciis MYNYDDAWC EIDDIN, bellum adversus Saxones gessisse, et ibi omnes, tribus exceptis, inter quos erat ANEURINUS, bello occubuisse. Fuerunt sub hoc principe in hac expeditione trecenti et sexaginta tres viri nobiles, qui eum ad bellum juxta *Cattraeth* sunt secuti. Fit hujus exercitus mentio in libro *Triadum* in hunc modum. *Teir gosgordd addwyn Ynys Prydain. Gosgordd MYNYDDAWC EIDDIN Yng Cattraeth*; a gosgordd MELYN a CHYNFELYN; a gosgordd DRYWON mab NUDD yn *Rhodwydd Arderydd*. i. e. Tres fuere nobiles exercitus Insulæ Britannicæ. Exercitus MYNYDDAWC EIDDIN juxta *Cattraeth*; Exercitus ME-

LYN et CYNFELYN ; et Exercitus DRYWON filii NUDD juxta *Rhodwydd Arderydd*.

PLACUIT hic nonnulla ex ANEURINI *Gododinio* excerpere, quæ licet ob vetustatem et dialecti varietatem sint admodum obscura (fuit enim si non Pictorum lingua, saltem Britannorum septentrionalium dialectus, et ideo hodiernis Cambro-Britannis minus facilis intellectu) attamen lectori haud injucunda fore judicavi, eo quod salvis Græcis et Latinis sit forsan antiquissimum in Europâ poema. Interpretationem in multis claudicare nullus dubito. Ii quibus plura exemplaria videre contigerit, ea felicius enucleabunt. Ego non nisi unum vidi a THOMA GULIELMO Medico practico scriptum, in quo quæ sequuntur sic se habebant.

CAEAWG CYNHORAWG myn ydd elai,
Diphun ym mlaen bun medd a dalai,
Twll tal i rodawr yn i clywai awr,
Ni roddai nawd maint dilynai,
Ni chilia o gamawn, yn i ferai
Waed mal brwyn, gomynai wyr nid elai,
Nis adrawdd Gododin ar llawr MORDAI,
Rhag pebyll MADOG pan atcorei
Namyn un gwr o gant yn y ddelai.

i. e.

“ CAEAWG CYNHORAWG ubicunque ivit,
“ - - - - - hydromeli dedit,
“ Scutum ejus fuit perforatum, ubicunque audivit
“ Clamorem, hostibus non pepercit, et eos infecutus est :

“ Nec

- “ Nec prius a bello destitit, quam sanguis effusè fluxerit,
 “ Et eos qui non discedebant securi percussit;
 “ Adeo ut non possit Gododin celebrare facta in aula MORDAI.
 “ Ex MADOCI castris quum domum profectus est
 “ Unus tantum ex centum rediit.”

CAEAWG CYNHORAWG arfawg yngawr,
 CYNO diwygwr gwrdd yngwyawr,
 Cynran yn rhagwan rhag byddinawr,
 Cwyddai bum pumwnt rhag eu llafnawr,
 O wyr *Deifr* a *Bryneich* dychrawr,
 Ugeincant eu difant yn unawr,
 Cynt i gig i fleidd nog yt i neithiawr,
 Cynt e fydd i fran, nog yt i elawr,
 Cyn noe argyfrein e waed i lawr,
 Gwerth medd ynghyntedd gan *Lliweddawr*,
 HYFEIDD HIR ermygir tra fo Cerddawr.

i. e.

- “ CAEAWG CYNHORAWG vir in bello armatus,
 “ Et CYNO qui se strenuum gessit in dimicando,
 “ Ceciderunt numerus ingens eorum hastis transfixi.
 “ Prius lupo parabatur caro, quam nuptiali convivio;
 “ Et corvo prius commodum fuit, quam Libitinæ.
 “ Prius quam humi fluebat ejus sanguis
 “ In aula *Lliweddawr* mulsum bibit,
 “ Et HYFEIDD HIR celebrabitur, donec erit Cantor.”

Deipnos. p. 152.

Gwyr

Gwyr a aeth *Gattraeth* feddfaeth feddwn,
 Ffurf ffrwythlawn, oedd cam nas cymhwyllwn,
 I am lasnawr coch, gorfawr, gwrnwn,
 Dwys d. ngyn ydd ymleddyn aergwn,
 Ar deulu *Bryneich* be ich barnafwn,
 Diluw, dyn yn fyw nis gadawfwn,
 Cyfeillt a gollais, difflais oeddwn,
 Rhugl yn ymwrthryn, rhyn rhiadwn.
 Ni mynnws gwrawl gwaddawl chwegrwn,
 Maban y GIAN o faen GWYNCWN.

i. e.

- “ Viri festinabant *Cattraeth*, quibus mulsū erat potus,
 “ Formā eximii, quibus ingratus essem, si non meminerim.
 “ Hastis armati turmatim rubris, magnis et incurvatis,
 “ Pugnabant impetuoſi bellatores.
 “ Si mihi liceret ^a ſententiam de *Deirorum* populo ferre,
 “ Æque ac diluvium omnes una ſtrage proſtrarem;
 “ Amicum enim amiſi incautus,
 “ Qui in reſiſtendo firmus erat — — —
 “ Non petiit magnanimus dotem a ſocero,
 “ Filius CIANI ex ſtrenuo GWYNGWN ortus.”

^a Fortaſſe, “ Vindiſtam in *Deirorum* populum,” &c.

Yfeis.

Yfeis i o win a medd y MORDAI,
 Mawr maint i wewyr,
 Ynghyfarfod gwyr,
 Bwyd i eryr eryfmygai.
 Pan gryffiei GYDYWAL cyfddwyreai
 Awr, gan wyrdd wawr cyn i dodai,
 Aeffawr ddellt am bellt a adawai,
 Parrau ryn rwygiad, dygymmynai
 Ynghat blaen bragat briwai.

i. e.

- “ Ego bibi ex vino et Mulso MORDAI,
 “ Cujus hasta fuit immanis magnitudinis.
 “ In belli congressu,
 “ Victum aquilis paravit.
 “ Quando CYDYWAL festinavit, exortus est clamor
 “ Ante croceam auroram, cum signum dedit,
 “ Scutum in asseres comminutos fregit,
 “ Et hastis lacerantibus percussit,
 “ Et in bello eos qui primam stationem sunt naeti vulneravit.

Gwyr a aeth *Gattræth* buant enwawd;
 Gwin a medd o aur fu eu gwirawd,
 Blwyddyn yn erbyn wrdyn ddefawd,
 Trywyr a thriugaint a thrichant eurdorchawd,
 O'r sawl yt gryfliaffant uch gormant wirawd,
 Ni ddiengis namyn tri o wrhydri ffoffawd,
 Dau gatci *Aeron*, a CHYNON DAEARAWD
 A minnau o'm gwaedffreu gwerth fy ngwenwawd.

“ Viri

i. e.

- “ Viri ibant ad CATTRAETH, et fuere insignes,
 “ Vinum et mulsum ex aureis poculis erat eorum potus.
 - - - - -
 “ Trecenti et sexaginta tres aureis torquibus insigniti erant,
 “ Ex iis autem qui nimio potu madidi ad bellum properabant,
 “ Non evasere nisi tres, qui sibi gladiis viam muniebant,
 “ Sc. bellator de *Aeron* et CONANVS DAEARAWD,
 “ Et egomet ipse (sc. Bardus Aneurinus) sanguine rubens,
 “ Aliter ad hoc carmen compingendum non superstes fuisset.

Pan gryffiei GARADAWG i gad,
 Mab baedd coed, trychwn, trychiad,
 Tarw byddin yn nhrin gymmyniad,
 Ef llithiai wydd gwn oi angad,
 Ys fy nhyft EWEIN fab EULAD,
 A GWRIEN, a GWYN, a GWRIAD,
 O *Gattraeth* o gymmynad,
 O *Fryn Hydwn* cyn caffad,
 Gwedi medd gloyw ar angad,
 Ni weles WRIEN ei dad.

i. e.

- “ Quando ad bellum properabat CARADOCUS,
 “ Filius apri sylvestris qui truncando mutilavit hostes,
 “ Taurus aciei in pugnæ conflictu,
 “ Is lignum (i. e. hastam) ex manu contorsit,
 “ Cujus rei sunt testes EWEIN filius EULAD,
 “ Et GWRIEN et GWYN et GWRIAD.

L

“ Ex

- “ Ex *Cattraeth* et congressu ibi,
 “ Ex *Bryn Hydwn* ubi prius habitavit, oriundus,
 “ Postquam *mulsum* lucidum in manu tenuerat,
 “ Non vidit patrem suum *GWRIENUS*.

Cyfwyrein cetwyr cyfarfuant,
 Ynghyt, yn unfryt yt gyrchaffant,
 Byrr eu hoedl, hir eu hoed ar eu carant,
 Seith gymmaint o Loegrwys a laddaffant,
 O gyfryfleddd gwragedd gwyach a wnaethant,
 Llauer mam ai deigr ar ei hamrant.

i. e.

- “ Laudo bellatores qui congressi sunt omnes,
 “ Et uno animo hostes adorti sunt,
 “ Fuit eorum vita brevis, et longum amicis desiderium reliquerunt,
 “ Occiderunt tamen ex Saxonibus plus scepties
 “ ^b Ex contentione mulierum egregiè egerunt,
 “ Et frequens erat mater lacrymas profundens.

Arddyledawc canu, cymman o fri,
 Twrf tân, a tharan, a rhyferthi,
 Gwryd ardderchawg marchawg mysgi,
 RHUDD FEDEL rhyfel a eidduni,
 Gwr gwnedd, difuddiawg, dygymmyni ynghat,
 O'r meint gwlad yt glywi.

^b Quid sibi vult hic Bardus non mihi constat.

i. e.

- “ Debitus est tibi cantus, qui honorem affecutus ses maximum,
 “ Qui eras instar ignis, tonitruui et tempestatis,
 “ Viribus eximie, eques bellicose
 “ RHUDD FEDEL, bellum meditaris.
 “ Licet vir strenuus adoriatur, eum superabis in bello
 “ Ex quacunque regione eum advenisse audieris.

Arddyledawc canu clauer orchorddion,
 A gwedi dyrraith dyleinw afon,
 Dimcones loflen ben eryron llwyd,
 Ef gorau bwyd i ysglyfion.
 Or a aeth *Gattraeth* o aurdorchogion,
 Ar neges MYNYDDAWG mynawg Maon,
 Ni ddoeth yn ddiwarth o barth Frython,
Ododin wr bell well no CHYNON.

i. e.

- “ Carmine debent celebrari nobiles procures,
 “ Qui post conflictum amnes ripas superare fecerunt.
 “ Ejus manus fatiavit aquilarum fufcarum gulas,
 “ Is et optime cibum paravit avibus rapacibus,
 “ Ex omnibus enim eis qui ibant ad *Gattraeth* aureis torquibus insigniti,
 “ Qui partem MYNYDDAWG in bello defendebant clari fatellites,
 “ Nullus ex Britonibus melius suum egit munus
 “ In *Gododin*, (ex iis qui ex longinquo venerunt) quam CONANUS.

Sc. cruore fuso.

Truan yw gennyf i gwedi lludded
 Goddef gloes angau trwy anghyffred
 Ag eil trwm truan gennyf fi, gweled
 Dygwyddaw an gwyr ni pen o draed
 Ac uchenaid hir ag eilywed
 Yn ol gwyr pybyr tymyr tudwed
 RHYFAWN a GWGAWN GWIAWN a GWLYGED
 Gwyr gorsaf gwriaf gwrdd ynghaled
 Ys deupo eu henaidd hwy wedi trined
 Cynnwys yngwlad nef addef afreued.

i. e.

- “ Me maximè dolet post laborem amicos nostros
 “ Subire mortis angorem more inassueto;
 “ Et iterum me maximè dolet quod ipse vidi
 “ Viros nostros in bello gradatim cadentes.
 “ Gemitus est longus et opprobrium
 “ Post homines alacres patriæ decus,
 “ RHYFAWN et GWGAWN GWIAWN et GWLYGED,
 “ Viri qui erant sustentacula (belli sc.) fortissimi et in angustiis magnanimi
 “ Ascendant eorum animæ post pugnam
 “ In regnum cœlorum ubi habitatio est sine ullo desiderio.

Hæc de ANEURINO sufficiant.

FLORUERE eodem seculo et multi alii Bardi inter quos eminet
 MYRDDIN WYLLT, id est, MERLINUS Sylvestris, qui poema com-
 posuit cui titulus *Afallennau*, id est, pomarium, in quo patroni sui
 GWENDDOLAU filii CEIDIO munificentiam prædicat.

Afallen

Afallen beren bren y fydd fad
 Nid bychan dy lwyth fydd ffrwyth arnad
 A minnau wyf ofnawg amgelawg am danad
 Rhag dyfod y coedwyr coed gymmynad
 I gladdu dy wraidd a llygru dy hād
 Fāl na thyfo byth afal arnad
 A minnau wyf gwyllt gerthrychiad
 Im cathrid cythrudd nim cudd dillad
 Neum rhoddes GWENDDOLEU tlyfau yn rhad
 Ac yntau heddyw fal na buad.

i. e.

- " O arbos pomifera, dulcis et bona,
 " Non parvum fers onus fructuum;
 " Ego tui causa anxius et sollicitus sum,
 " Ne lignatores arbores ad cædendas veniant,
 " Et effodiant tuam radicem, et semen corrumpant;
 " Ita ut nunquam postea pomum feras:
 " Ego sum ferus, hominibus spectaculum;
 " Me occupat horror, et vestes me non amiciunt.
 " GENDDOLAU dedit mihi gratis jocularia,
 " Et ipse est hodie non uti olim fuit.

FUIT MERLINUS MORFRYNI filius et *Albaniæ* oriundus, et
 alter fuit a MERLINO AMBROSIO qui vixit tempore VORTIGERNI,
 et eò quod nepotem casu interfecerit in insaniam incidit et in *Caledo-*
niam recessit sylvam feri instar, ubi, cum animi compos esset, sortem
 suam carminibus deploravit.

FLORUIT

FLORUIT hoc seculo et LLYWARCH-HEN, i. e. longævus, URIENI *Cumbrice* principis consobrinus. Extant ab eo scripta poemata in quibus narrat se a Saxonibus in *Povisiam* pulsum fuisse, et sibi fuisse viginti quatuor filios aureis torquibus insignitos, et omnes patriam defendendo bello occubuisse. Qui plura de hoc viro nobili et Bardo desiderat Cl. LLWYDII *Archæologiam Britannicam* consulat p. 259.

VIXERUNT eodem tempore alii Bardi, sed cum eorum non extant opera, nomina tantum interferere sufficiat. TRISTFARDD, Bardd URIEN REGED. DYGYNNELW, Bardd OWAIN ap URIEN. AFAN FERDDIG, Bardd CADWALLON ap CADFAN. GOLYDDAN, Bardd CADWALADR FENDIGAID. Sunt in iis qui extant multa quæ historico Britannico usui esse possunt: fuere enim Bardi rerum gestarum fidi narratores. Fuit eorum præcipuum munus principum et magnatum laudes, et egregia in bello acta carminibus celebrare, quod et olim de iis observavit LUCANUS

Vos quoque, qui fortes animas belloque peremptas
Laudibus in longum vates dimittitis ævum,
Plurima securi fudistis carmina BARDI. Lib.

“ BARDI (inquit Lelandus in *Affertione ARTURII*) soli musicis
“ numeris, et illustri nobilium memoriæ conservandæ studebant, canebant illi ad lyram heroum inclyta facta, profuit hoc studium mirificè
“ cognitioni, tanquam per manus posteritati traditæ. Unde quoque
“ contigit ut ARTURII maximi nomen, fama, gloria utcunque conserventur.” Inventus est enim ejus sepulchrum in monasterio *Glastonienfi* juxta id quod Bardus cecinerat coram HENRICO Secundo, quod
fatis

fatis demonstrat illos historicorum fidorem æquè ac poetarum munus egisse.

HABEMUS præter hos quos supra citavimus Bardos, nonnulla carmina anonyma pervetusta, quæ Druidum esse existimavit EDVARDUS LLUYD, cujusmodi sunt *Englynion yr Eiry, y bidiau, y gorwynnion*. Moris fuisse Druidis carmina alumnos docere notavit CAESAR: “Magnum ubi versuum numerum edicere dicuntur. Itaque non-
“nulli annos vicosos in disciplina permanent, neque fas esse existi-
“mant ea litteris mandare, quum in reliquis fere rebus publicis pri-
“vatisque rationibus, Græcis litteris utuntur. Id mihi duabus de
“causis instituisse videntur; quod neque in vulgus disciplinam efferri
“velint, neque eos qui discunt litteris confisos minus memoriæ stu-
“dere, quod ferè plerisque accidit ut præsidio litterarum diligentiam
“in discendo ac memoriam remittant.” Genus carminis quo in his
usi sunt fuit *Englyn Milwr*.

HAEC de antiquissimis quæ nunc extant Bardis Britannicis dicere sufficiat, ad illos nunc accedo qui durante Principum Cambriæ gubernaculo floruerunt. A seculo sexto ad decimum nihil quod novi extat scriptum, saltem non vidi, neque quid causæ esse potuit augurari possum, nisi frequens bellorum strages et Britannorum inter dissidia. In HOELI BONI, nostris HYWEL DDA, legibus fit Bardi aulici mentio, et quænam fuerit ejus ibi conditio, ^a quæ, temporis ratione habitâ, fuit perhonestâ. Circa annum 1170 GRUFFUDD AP CONAN Cam-

^a “Qui Harpatorem in manum percussit, componat illum quartâ parte
“majori compositione quàm alteri ejusdem conditionis homini.” Inter Legg. Ripuariorum et Wesinorum a Lindenbro-

chio collectas—Unde patet quanto in honore apud externos etiam Bardus et Harpator (idem enim plerunque fuit munus) habitus esset. Præter harpam aliud instrumenti genus sibi peculiare Norwallen-

briæ.

briæ princeps legem Bardis præscripsit, in qua cautum erat ut nullam præter suam exercerent artem, in qua et dona et pœnas constituit. Eos autem in tres classes divisit, *Prydydd*, *Teuluwr* et *Clerwr*; et fixum unicuique secundum ordinem statuit stipendium. Eorum electio fieri solebat in solenni principum et procerum concessu, ubi unicuique secundum meritum assignatus est locus. Ille vero qui præcellat, sellâ donatus est aureâ vel argenteâ, unde et *Cadeirfardd* dictus, i. e. Bardus qui sellam affecutus est.

AB eo tempore multi eximii floruerunt Bardi, et a principibus admodum fovebantur. MEILIR qui fuit GRUFFINI filii CONANI Bardus, fuit et ejusdem miles et legatus uti et ipse in ejus epicedio refert.

Yfeis gan deyrn o gyrn eurawg
 Arfod faedd feiddiad angad weiniawg
 Yn llys *Aberffraw* er ffaw ffodiawg
 Bum o du Gwledig yn lleithawg
 Eilwaith ydd eithum yn negeffawg
 O leufer lliw camawn iawn dywyffawg
 Bu fedd aur gylchwy yn fodrwyawg
 Torrefid gormes yn llyngheffawg
 Gwedi tonnau gwyrdd gorewynnawg
 Dyphuthynt eu feirch meirch rhygyngawg.

ses vindicant, quod *Crwdd* vocant—Hinc verbum Anglicum *Crowdero* apud Hudibrastum pro *Fiddler* or *Player upon the Violin*, ad quod *Crwdd* principium dedisse videtur. Hoc instrumenti genus ferè in de-

suetudinem abiit, et *violino* cessit.—Ex sex chordis felinis constat, nec eodem modo quo *violinum* modulatur, quamvis a figurâ haud multum abludat: In Sudwalliâ penitus ignoratur:

“ Romanusque Lyrâ plaudat tibi, Barbarus Harpâ,
 “ Græcus Achilliaca, *Crotta* Britannia canat.”

VENANTIUS. Lib. 7. Carm. 8.

“ Dedit

i. e.

- “ Dedit mihi potum ex cornu deaurato princeps,
 “ Cujus impetus erat instar apri ferocis in bello, cujus
 “ Manus erat liberalis
 “ In aula *Aberffraw*, quod mihi decus et felicitas fuit.
 “ Ex domini mei parte miles fui,
 “ Et iterum legationem obii.
 “ Quum a bello cruento discederet princeps egregius.
 “ Mulso ex poculo aureo bibebatur in circulo,
 “ Hostium enim invasionem navalem repulimus,
 “ Et post refluxionem undarum viridium perspumofarum
 “ Portabant phaleras in littore sicco equi gestientes.

NEC dedignati sunt ipsi principes hanc artem, animi relaxandi causa,
 colere, ut testantur OWENI CYFEILIOG principis *Povislae* et HOELI
 filii OWENI *Venedotiae* principis opera, quibus addere licet LLE-
 WELLINUM ultimum Cambriae principem. De eo enim sic MATT.
 WEST. circa natale domini LLEWELLINUS accessit ad regem miseri-
 cordiam non justitiam petiturus—et paulo post—Rex EDWARDUS vo-
 calem principem diligenter instructum ad partes Walliae redire permisit^a.
 Poematum argumenta erant egregia in bello facinora, libertas, hospita-
 litas et munificentia, et si quæ alia virtus, quæ homines domi ornat, et
 foris hostibus tremendos reddit. Et fuit eorum in accendendis ho-
 minum ad clara incepta animis tanta vis, ut nihil æque sonaret
 TYRTAEI musa quum suos ad honestam mortem oppetendam hor-
 taretur. Et quænam, quæso, reipublicæ tam utilis virtus, quum
 hostibus utrinque premeretur, et cum sola spes, salus et libertas
 esset in armis, quam magnanimus periculorum contemptus, et ad

^a Vid. PRYNNE's Coll. of Records, Vol. III. p. 1214.

ea adēunda ardor egregius? Sed præstat GIRALDUM CAMBRENSSEM audire qui iis vixit temporibus, et fuit eorum quæ hic narrantur oculatus testis. “Nec ullo prorsus nisi martio labore vexantur, patriæ tamen tutelæ student et libertatis: Pro patria pugnant, pro libertate laborant; pro quibus non solum ferro dimicare, verum etiam vitam dare dulce videtur. Unde et in thoro turpe, in bello mori decus putant. Ac illud poetæ dixerunt—*procul hinc avertite pacem, nobilitas cum pace perit*, nec mirum si non degenerant. Quorum enim hi reliquiæ sunt olim, Æneadæ in ferrum pro libertate ruebant. De his igitur spectabile, quod nudi multoties cum ferro vestitis, inermes cum armatis, pedites cum equitibus congredi non vèrentur, in quo plerumque conflictu sola fiunt agilitate, et animositate victrices. Illis quorum poeta sic meminit, sicut situ sic natura non diffimiles.”

—— Populus quos despicit arctos
 Felices errore suo, quos ille timorum
 Maximus haud urget leti metus, inde ruendi
 In ferrum mens prona viris, animæque capaces
 Mortis, et ignavum redituræ parcere vitæ.

ET nonnullis interjectis —— “Illud in hoc loco notandum videtur, quod Anglorum Rex *Henricus* Secundus nostris diebus imperatori Constantinopolitano *Emmanueli* super insulæ Britannicæ situ ac natura, magisque notabilibus litteris et nunciis inquirenti: Inter cætera hoc quasi præcipue notabile rescripsit. In quadam insulæ parte sunt gentes quæ Wallenses dicuntur, tantæ audaciæ et ferocitatis ut nudi cum armatis congredi non vereantur, adeo ut sanguinem pro patria fundere promptissime, vitamque velint pro laude pacisci.” Hactenus GIRALDUS.

Non immerito Bardis tantus fuit habitus honor; ii enim heroum inclyta canentes acta, et majorum illustria proponentes exempla suos ad ardua incitabant, unde et patriæ salutem, principibus et proceribus gloriam conciliabant; nec solum illustria aliorum canebant facta, verum ipsi in bello eodem quo in cantibus ardore incitati, multa præclara fortitudinis exhibebant documenta. GWALCHMAI filius MEILIR se Cambriæ fines adversus Anglos defendisse gloriatur in poemate cui titulus *Gorhoffedd GWALCHMAI*, i. e. *ejus Deliciæ*. Stationem ejus juxta fluvium *Esfurnwy* fuisse docet non procul ab agro *Salopiensi*. Sunt multa in hoc poemate tam heroe quam Bardo digna. Postquam enim excubias per noctem totam egisset GWALCHMAI, ad lucem diei appropinquantis lætus, loci et rerum circumjacentium pulchritudine delectatus, omnem curam et sollicitudinem amovit, et philomelæ cantui, et aquæ juxta labantis murmuri, et arborum herbarumque virori attendit, imminens ab hoste periculum contemnens, Marti æque ac Mercurio paratus, firmum mehercle et generosum pectus!

Poema in hunc modum incipit.

Mochddwyreawg Huan haf dyffestin
 Maws llafar adar, mygr, hyar hin.
 Mi ydwyf eurddeddf ddiofn yn nhrin
 Mi wyf llew rhag llu, lluch fy ngorddin
 Gorwyliais nos yn achadw ffin
 Gorloes rydau dwfr * *Dygen Freiddin*
 Gorlas gwellt didryf, dwfr neud jeflin
 Gwylain yn gware ar wely liant
 Lleithrion eu pluawr, pleidiau eddrin.

* *Dygen Freiddin*, hodie *Craig Freiddin*, est rupes alta et prærupta in agr. *Salopiensi*, non procul a *Sabrina*.

i. e.

- " O sol æstive, cito oriens propera,
 " Suavis est cantus avium, et cælum sudum et serenum est.
 " Ego sum bona indole præditus, et in bello intrepidus,
 " Sum leo strenuus in fronte exercitus, et meus impetus est violentus,
 " Totam noctem pervigilavi fines tutando
 " Ubi sunt vada translucida juxta *Dygen Freiddin*
 " Ubi herba in loco solitario crescens perviridis est, et aqua limpida
 " Mergi ludunt in fluctuum lecto,
 " Quorum plumæ fulgent, et ipsi inter se certant.

NON pigebit hic de alio Bardo, scilicet CYNDDELW Brydydd
 MAWR, i. e. CONDELAO vate eximio, nonnulla ex OWENI *Venedo-*
dotiæ principis epicedio excerpere; fuit enim ille, uti ex historia con-
 stat, patrî propugnato strenuus, et in bello fere semper victor. Vixit
 CYNDDELW in *Povifia*, et fuit MADOCI filii MAREDUDD, illius re-
 gionis principis, Bardus aulicus.

Gwersyll torfoedd tew llew lladdai,
 Gorsaf tarf, taerfalch fal GWALCHMAI,
 Gorfaran GWRFAN gorfyddai,
 Gwr yn aer yn aros gwaedd fai,
 Bryd EROF gryd, arf greu a ddodai,
 Brwydr eurgrwydr, eurgrawn ni guddiai,
 Bradog waith gwynniaith gwynnygai,
 Brys briwgad, brig bragad briwai,
 Brwyfc lasneu ynghreu ynghrai celanedd,
 Cymmynedd cymmynai,

Gwyrdd

Gwyrdd heli *Teifi* tewychai,
 Gwaedlan gwyr, a llyr ai llanwai,
 Gwyach rudd gorfudd goralwai,
 Ar donniar gwyar gonofiai,
 Gwyddfeirch tonn torrynt yn ertrai,
 Gwythur naws fal traws au treifiai,
 Gwyddfid *Eingl* ynghladd au trychai,
 Gwyddgwn coed colled au porthai,
 Gwyddwal dyfneual dyfnasai fy modd,

Fy meddiant a gaffai.

Colleis Arglwydd call nim collai,
 Corf eurdorf, eurdal am rhoddai,
 Cof cadflawdd am cawdd, a'm carai,
 Car cerddawr, cerddau ai cyrchai,
 Gryd wascar, llachar, a'm llochai,
 Grym dilludd DILLUS fab ERFAI,
 Greddf *Greidwyr*, a *Chywyr* a *Chai*,
 Glew ddefawd glyw oesdrawd aefdrai,
 Ystre hynt, wastad, westei gwynfydig

Gwyn ei fyd bieufei.

Gwyth escor tra mor, tra *Menai*,
 Gwlydd elfydd elwais o honai,
 Tra fu OWAIN mawr ai meddai,
 Medd a gwin a gwirawd fyddai,
Gwynedd wen Gwyndyd len ledpai,
 Gwedi gwawr, cad fawr ai cadwai,
 Pa wladwr, arwr arwyndai,

Pa wledig a wledych arnai?

i. e.

“Densas turmas in conflictu occidit leo,

“Qui fuit instar GWALCHMAI acris ad fugandum hostes,

“Superavit

- " Superavit magnas copias G W R F A N N I,
 " Fuit in bello vir qui tubam expectabat,
 " Similis E R O F bellicoso, qui t e h i m cruentum duxit,
 " Ex bello rediens, in quo aurum nactus est, thesaurum non recondit;
 " In hostes dolosos certans magnâ excaudit irâ;
 " Hastæ in bello furiosæ erant in cadaveribus occisorum
 " Et acies (gladiorum) se invicem contriverunt,
 " Viridis aqua T e i v i i pinguis facta fuit,
 " Fluxus virorum sanguinis et maris eum ripas superare fecit,
 " Et ^f rubra avis aquatilis, pro magno habebat emolumento,
 " Et per fluvios cruoris natabat,
 " Et alti marini equi (i. e. fluctus) plangebant in littore.
 " Magnanimus ille princeps eos instar tyranni oppressit,
 " Et Anglorum cumulos in fossa truncavit.
 " Sylvestres canes amiserunt opsonatorem,
 " Quibus in densis vepribus assolebat esse victus, neque meo assensu,
 " Neque auxilio indigebat.
 " Perdidi dominum prudentem, qui me non neglexit,
 " Cujus corpus erat auro amictum, quique mihi aurum dedit,
 " Cujus memoria (mortui) me lædit : qui me dilexit:
 " Amicus enim erat Bardo, et eum appetebant carmina
 " Ille qui homines in bello dissipare fecit, et cuius impetus erat violentus me fovit,
 " Cujus robur erat ineluctabile instar D I L L U S filii E R F A I,
 " Et cuius ingenium erat simile G R E I D W Y R, C Y W Y R et C A I.
 " Herois instar hastam gessit comminutam
 " Domi autem vitæ cursus erat tranquillus, hospes enim erat munificus
 " Et ad summam felicitatem pervenit.

^f Quænam sit hæc avis mihi non constat.

" Ille

- “ Ille victorias reportavit violentus trans æstuarium *Menai* .
 “ Ubi terra est benigna, ex qua beneficium sum nactus :
 “ Donec extitit OWENUS magnus qui *Monam* possedit,
 “ Mulsum, vinum et ^g *gwirawd* bibimus.
 “ O *Venedotia* olim beata, Venedotorum tutamen asperu,
 “ Post Heroem bellicosum qui te defendet !
 “ Quis ex nostratibus heros in ædibus vivens magnificis,
 “ Quis princeps te gubernare æquo ac ille valebit ?

SED non semper in bellatorum laudes effusi erant Bardi ; sæpe etiam principum et magnatum fata indigna lugubriter canebant. Sed infinitum esset hæc singulatim recensere. Unum sat est adducere exemplum, ex quo de aliis facile judicari potest. LEOLINŌ GRUFFINI filio, ultimo Cambriæ principe, juxta *Buellt* dolo sublato, dici non potest quanto id Bardos dolore affecit. Inter quos GRUFFUDD AP YR YNAD COCH hæc texuit admodum *παιδην* :

Llawer llef druan, fal pan fu *Gamlan*,
 Llawer deigr dros rann gwedi gronniaw,
 O leas gwanas gwanar eurllaw,
 O laith LLYWELYN cof dyn nim daw,
 Oerfelog calon, dan fron o fraw,
 Rhewydd, fal crinwydd y fy'n crinaw,
 Poni welwch chwi hynt y gwynt ar glaw ?
 Poni welwch chwi'r deri yn ymdaraw ?
 Poni welwch chwi'r mor yn merwino'r tir ?
 Poni welwch chwi'r gwir yn ymg'weiriaw ?
 Poni welwch chwi'r haul yn hwylio'r awyr ?
 Poni welwch chwi fyr wedi fyrthiaw ?

^g Potus genus apud veteres Britannos.

Poni

Poni chredwch i Dduw ddyniadon ynfyd
 Poni welwch chwi'r byd wedi bydiaw?
 Och hyd attat di Dduw na ddaw mor tros dir
 Pa beth in gedir i ohiriaw?
 Nid oes le i cyrcher rhag carchar braw
 Nid oes le i triger och! o'r trigaw,
 Nid oes na chyngor, na chlo nag agor,
 Na ffordd i egor brwyn gyngor braw!

i. e.

" Frequens est vox lugubris, veluti olim in *Camlan*,
 " Multæ lacrymæ in genis accumulatur,
 " Eo quod occidit Cambriæ sustentaculum, et ejus dominus
 " munificus,
 " Ex quo occidit LEOLINUS de cæteris non curo;
 " Cor frigidum est sub pectore ob horrorem,
 " Et is qui prius hilaris erat, jam marcescit.
 " Nonne videtis venti et imbris cursum?
 " Nonne videtis quercus in se invicem ruentes?
 " Nonne videtis mare terram vastans?
 " Nonne videtis solem ex cursu aerio doflēctentom?
 " Nonne videtis astra ex orbibus corruisse?
 " Cur Deo non creditis homines, vesani?
 " Nonne videtis mundi finem adesse?
 " Exclamabo usque ad te, o Deus, cur terram non absorbet mare,
 " Et cur diutius relinquimur in angore languere?
 " Nullus est locus, quem petamus ægri,
 " Nullus locus, in quo habitemus miseri,
 " Nullum restat consilium, nullum effugium,
 " Nulla via, qua evitemus fatum luctuosum.

FLORUERE a tempore GRUFFINI CONANI filii ad hunc LEOLINUM et multi alii Bardi insignes, inter quos eminet LLYWARCH cognomine Prydydd y Moch, qui LEOLINI Magni, nostris LLEWELYN AP JORWERTH, victorias multis celebravit odis, uti et fecere DAFYDD BENFRAS, DANIEL AP LLOSGWRN MEW, LLYWELYN FARDD AP CYWRYD.

FLORUIT eodem tempore in *Cerestia* PHŶLYP BRYDYDD, qui Bardus fuit RHYS GRYG et RHYS JEUANC ex familia RHYS AP TEWDWR oriundus.

LONGUM esset singulos recensere; de præstantioribus pauca prælibasse sufficit. Cum Cambriam in suam potestatem redegerat EDWARDUS primus, in Bardos sævit tyranni instar, et multos suspendi fecit. Quid mirum, cum ipsum LEOLINUM principem et DAVIDEM fratrem tam inhumaniter tractaverit? Sed EDWARDUS a LEOLINO olim in fugam pulsus, noluit illi nec affectis ignoscere. Hinc illæ lacrymæ. Bardis objiciebatur quod cives in seditionem excitarunt, id est re vera, quod eos ad vindicandum libertatem pristinam majorum more hortarentur. Bardi enim fuere *Cambri* idem quod olim *Atbeniensibus* oratores, quos ut Græciam in servitutem redigeret, sibi tradi voluit PHILIPPUS Macedo. Regum Angliæ justiciarii post *Edwardum* in Cambria ejus exemplum secuti, Bardos legibus iniquis obnoxios ubique sustulerunt; unde fit ut admodum sint rari ab eo tempore usque ad annum 1400, quo, Anglorum excusso servitutis jugo, sub OWENI GLYNDWR auspiciis, se in libertatem priscam vindicarunt Cambri. Hoc ævo multi claruere Bardi, inter quos JOLO GOCH OWENI magnificentiam et victorias ad sydera tulit. Fuit enim OWENUS Bardorum fautor et Mæcenæ, et eos undiquaque ad aulam libe-

ralitate provocabāt. Eo tempore floruit DAFYDD AP GWILYM Bardorum longe venustissimus e *Ceretia* oriundus. Avunculum habuit LLYWELYN AP GWILYM de *Cryngae* et *Dôl Goch*, qui eum liberaliter educabat. Patronus ejus fuit IFOR HAEL de *Bassaleg*, cujus munificentiam et magnanimitatem multis prosequitur laudibus. Cum OWENI retro laberentur res, Cambros more inaudito oppressit HENRICUS IV. et patriæ fatum subiere Bardi. Lege enim cautum erat ne annuam peragationem et conventus, nostris *Clera* et *Cymbortha*, celebrarent. Hæc fuit causa cur multi hoc sæculo tam obscure scripserint: multis enim cantibus *Cywydd Brut*, i. e. *Carminis fatidici* nomen indidere; quod et fecere postea cum inter *Eboracenses* et *Lancastrenses* grassaretur factio. HENRICUS V. multum a paterna remisit in Cambros sævitia. Abeo tempore longa floruit Bardorum series, et in magnatum ædibus alebantur, ubi eorum genealogias et signa gentilitia texebant, eorumque virtutes, scilicet magnanimitatem, hospitalitatem et alias animi atque corporis ingenuas et honestas dotes debita prosequantur laude. Mos enim fuit Britannis olim, uti et nunc Cambris, ut longam majorum seriem producerent, et Bardi qui hoc munere sunt functi ARWYDDFEIRDD sunt appellati, et carmen texuere “parasematicum, quod cum prosapia generisve serie, etiam et παρασήματα, id est insignia nobilium et generosorum describit ea, quæ in vestibus et vexillis et hujusmodi aliis insignita conspiciuntur, quæque fiunt aut feruntur, ita ab iis discreta ut nosci possint quorum sint, sive ad quos pertineant, more antiquorum bene meritis tributa, et tanquam ornamenta laudis et gloriæ, vel ob propriam vel suorum majorum virtutem comparata.”—Vide JOHANNIS DAVIDIS RHESI Linguae Cymraecæ Institutiones accuratas pag. 146. Ex quo et hæc de hujusmodi Bardo transtulimus p. 303. “*Pwy bynnag a ddywetto ei fod yn Arwyddfardd, gwybydded achoedd Brenbinoedd a Thywyssogion, a chyfarwyddyd oddiwrth y tri Phrifardd ynys Prydain, nid amgen,*” MYRDDIN

“MYRDDIN AP MORFRYN, a MYRDDIN EMRYS a THALIESIN
 “BEN BEIRDD.” i. e. “Quicumque voluerit esse Bardus parasema-
 “ticus, necesse est ut sciat regum et principum stemmata, et sit bene
 “versatus in operibus MERLINI MORFRYNI filii, MERLINI AM-
 “BROSII et TALIESINI summi Bardi.” Et hoc fuisse antiquitus
 Bardorum munus annotavit GIRALDUS CAMBRENSIS. “Hoc mihi
 “notandum videtur, quod Bardi Cambrenses et cantores seu recitato-
 “res genealogias habent prædictorum principum in libris eorum anti-
 “quis et authenticis, eandemque memoriter tenent a RODERICO
 “Magno usque ad BELINUM Magnum, et inde usque ad SYLVIVM,
 “ASCANIUM et ÆNEAM, et ab ea usque ad ADAM generationem
 “linealiter producant.”

Non abs re fore judicavi hic monumentum vetus inferere, quod in
 manuscripto JOH. DAV. RHESI propria manu exarato inveni. Quod
 quidem manuscriptum dignum est omnino quod prelo mandetur:
 nostram enim linguam poësin, et alia vetusta monumenta adversus
 ignarum quendam calumniatorem, quorum messem innumeram hæc
 æque ac superior ætas tulit, strenue vindicat. Hic tractatus in lingua
 Britannica eleganter scriptus est, et talium nebulonum inscitiam pro-
 tertvam facile retundit. Videtur vir doctissimus hoc monumen-
 tum ex vetusto aliquo scriptore nunc deperdito excerptisse. Utcun-
 que sit, id ego ex ejus autographo hic fideliter exscribere curavi.
 “BLETHINUS filius CYNVINI patri in principatu “*Povisiæ*
 “successit. Hic templa, castra et maneria renovari fecit, leges
 “HOWELI observavit. Inter tres principes, videlicet, GRUFFI-
 “NUM filium CONANI principem *Venedotiæ*, BLETHINUM filium
 “CYNVINI principem *Povisiæ*, et RHESUM filium TEWDWR prin-
 “cipem *Suth-walliæ* inquisitio magna fuit de armis et de regali san-
 “guine antiquorum Britonum. Quibus conquestis in ditione sa-

“ pientium Walliæ ; repertæ fuerunt tres lineæ regales, et quindecim
 “ lineæ de sanguine nobilium senatorum Britanniae. Hic BLETHINUS
 “ primus omnium principum *Povislae*, in armis usus est leone rubeo
 “ in sulphure. Hic castrum de *Dol y Forwyn* fundavit, et apud *Mifod*
 “ sepultus est.”

Sunt in istis genealogiis multa quæ antiquario Britannico usui esse possunt ; nihil enim apud nostrates vel antiquius vel magis authenticum extat, et nihil quod magis nostram illustrat et confirmat historiam. Nonnulli enim ex Bardis non solum rei poeticæ, verum etiam historicæ mentem appulerunt. Erat in monasteriis uber historiarum, genealogiarum et poeseos collectio. Bardi enim ab abbatibus maxime fovebantur, et erant in festis solennibus ab iis laute excepti : uti constat ex operibus GUTTO'R GLYNN, GUTTUN OWAIN, JEUAN DEULWYN et TUDUR ALED. Extant et nunc in nobiliorum ædibus innumera Epicedia, quæ nostrates *Cywyddau Marwnad* nuncupavere : fuit enim Bardi domestici munus, cum aliquis e familia obierit, ejus Epicedium concinnare, quod post exequias ad cognatos fuit delatum et coram iis a Rhapsodis quos nostrates *Datceiniad* nominavere recitatum. Inter alia quæ in defuncti honorem sunt narrata, ejus genealogiam memorare tenebatur, ex quibus nobilibus ortus fuerit familiis, et quæ præclara fecerint ejus majores facinora. Hujuscemodi poematum multa vidi exemplaria pulchre exarata. Ab ELIZABETHAE Reginae tempore nullus fuit Bardorum legitimus confessus : unde fit ut nil sit deinceps accurate et secundum prosodiæ regulas scriptum : eousque ut jamdudum Bardorum et historicorum opera (ex quibus solis vera et genuina Britanniae historia petenda est) in maximo sint periculo ne funditus pereant. Quod multas ob causas in seculo tam docto et sagaci maxime est deplorandum, sunt quidem hoc ævo qui hæc studia velint rediviva, et qui plus ipsi possint in re poetica atque
 historica

historica quam quos superior tulit ætas. Inter quos societas *Cymmro-dorion* Londini, patriæ atque maternæ linguæ amore instigata, inter alia laude digna instituta, nonnulla veterum et recentiorum melioris notæ Bardorum poemata typis mandare meditatur. Opus profecto omnibus Cambris ingenuis gratissimum et longe desideratissimum. Optandum est potius quam expectandum, ut ii qui habent aliquid in poesi vel historia notatu dignum in privatis bibliothecis reconditum, id in vulgus emittant, aut saltem ab iis qui hujusmodi rebus operam navant perlegi permittant. Sic enim suæ famæ et patriæ commodo melius consulent quam vermibus et muribus committere.

Ego autem in Cambriæ montibus degens a bibliothecis et museis procul, quod potui feci; utinam ii qui plus possint, et materiam uberiores sunt nacti de Bardis, et cæteris Britannicæ antiquitatis requiis, meliora cudant.

YCHYDIG

A W D L A U

O waith yr hen Feirdd, yn amfer TYWYSOGION CYMRU,

Wedi eu cyfieithu i'r S A E S O N E G;

Er mwyn dangos anawdd ein Prydyddiaeth i wyr cywraint, dysgedig, anghyfiaith : â nodau byrrion, i eglurhau enwau Dynion, a Lleoedd, a grybwyllir ynddynt ; a hanes byrr o honynt, wedi ei gasglu allan o *Drioedd Ynys Prydain*, a hen Goffadwriaethau eraill ; er dywenydd i'r oes hon, ac er adfer ei haeddedigawl barch i'r hen famiaith *Gymraeg*, ac i'n Gwlad ; a'u dyledus glod i'w thrigolion dewrwyd gynt.

Ἄϊεῖ τᾷτο Διὸς κέραις μέλει, αἰὲν αἰοιδοῖς

Ὑμνεῖν ἀθανάτως, ὕμνεῖν ἀγαθῶν κλέα ἀνδρῶν.

THEOCRITUS Idyll. xvi.

Y CHYDIO

A W D L A U
O waidh y lhen Foidh, yn amser TYWYSGION CYMRU

Wedi eu cyflwynu i SAERON E.C.

Er mwyn dangos, anafodd ein Prydyddiaeth i wyl cywirion,
dyfodig, angymhau: i nodau dyfion, i clybiau cwm
Dymun, a fforddau, a gydwyllyr ynddynt; a hanes hys o
hys, wedi ei ffordd allan o Ddwyll i'w Prydydd, a hys
Gonddwyllyr cwm, er dwydydd i'w hys, ac er allor
ei hysddigawl hys i'w hys ffordd Gwyllyr, ac i'w Gwyllyr,
a'u dyfodig ydychyd i'w hysddigawl hysddigawl.

Am ffordd i'w hysddigawl hysddigawl,
Tymun o'wyllyr, i'w hysddigawl hysddigawl.

Tymun o'wyllyr i'w hysddigawl hysddigawl.

A T

RISIART MORYS, Yfwain,

Llywydd Cymdeithas y CYMMRODORION yn LLUNDAIN;

A'I FRODYR,

LEWIS MORYS o BENBRYN, yng NGHEREDIGION, Yfwain;

A

WILIAM MORYS o GAER GYBI, ym MON.

NI'bum yn hir yn myfyrio i'bwyl i cyflwynwn yr ychydig Awdlau
sydd yn canlyn, canys ni adwaen i neb heddyw ag sydd yn eu
deall cyfal â chwi, na neb chwaith sydd yn coledd ac yn mawrhau
ein Iaith mor anwylgu Frutannaidd. Imae ein Gwlad ni yn rhwymed-
dig i bob un o honoch: I chwi y *Llywydd*, yn enwedig, am y gofal
a gymmerasoch yn golygu argraphiad diweddaf y *Bibl Cyfsegrlan*, er
lles tragywyddol eneidiau ein cydwladwyr. Ef a dâl Duw i chwi am
y Gorchwyl elusengar yma, pan i bo'r byd hwn, a'i holl fawredd
a'i wychder, wedi llwyr ddiiflannu. Ac i mae'r Wlad a'r Iaith yn
dra rhwymedig i'r *Gwr o Benbryn*, am gasglu cymmaint o *Hanesion*
yngbwlch

O

ynghylch ein Hynafiaid, na chlywodd y *Saesón* braidd son erioed am danynt. Ef a ddelwent ddilynwyr *Camden*, pei gwelynt fal i mae yn argyhoeddi ac yn ceryddu eu belau, a'u tuedd gwyrgam, yn bychanu ac yn distadlu y pethau nad ydynt yn eu deall; ac o wir wenwyn yn taeru mai dychymmygion diweddar ydynt. Gobeithio i cawn ni weled y trysor mawrwerthiog yna ar gyhoedd; i beri gofieg, ac i dorri rhwyfsg y cyfryw oganwyr ein hen Hanesion.—Nid bychan o les i mae y *Gwer o Gaer Gybi* ynteu yn ei wneuthur, trwy gasglu *Gwaith yr ben Feirdd* godidog gynt; ac ir wyf yn cyfaddef mai o'i lyfrau ef i cefais i y rhan fwyaf o'r odlau sydd yn canlyn. Ni fedrwn lai na dywedyd hyn, am eich ewyllys da i'ch Gwlad a'ch Iaith; cynneddfau sydd, yfywaeth, mor brin ac anaml yn yr oes hon. Ef a ddichon hyn beri i'n Gwlad agor ei llygaid, a defnyddio yn well rhagllaw yr hen ysgrifenadau sydd heb fyned ar goll. Ac os na wna hi hynny, i mae yn rhaid addef i chwi eich trioedd wneuthur eich rhan yn odiaeth. Hyn a'm hannogodd i reddi blaenffrwyth fy llafur, er nad yw ond bychan, dan eich nodded; a gobeithio nad ydyw lwyr annheilwng i'w gyhoeddi, ag i daw rhywun cywreiniach i ddiwygio yr hyn sydd ammherffaith, ac i ofod allan bethau eraill godidocch. Nid oedd genyfi ond torri'r garw, gobeithio i daw eraill i lyfnhau a gwaftattau y balciau. Yn ddiau ni fuafwn i yn cymmeryd yr Orchest yma arnaf, ond darfod edliw o'r *Saesón*, nad oes genym ddim mewn Prydyddiaeth a dâl ei ddangos i'r byd: a bod un o drigolion yr *Uch Alban*, gwedi cyfieithu swrn o Waith hen Fardd; neu yn hytrach wedi addurno a thacclu rhyw Waith diweddar, a'i ofod allan yn ei enw ef. Chwi a wyddoch yn dda, oddiwrth Waith ein hen Feirdd awduraidd ni, sydd etto i'w gweled, nad ydyw ddim tebygol fod y Bardd gogleddig mor henaidd: ond nid af i i ymyrryd ag ef ym mhellach yr awron. I mae yn ddigon genyfi roddi hyn o brawf o'n hen Feirdd ein hunain i'r byd; ac os darfu i mi wneuthur Cyfiawnder iddynt, dyna fi wedi cyrraedd

cyrraedd fy amcan. Pa fodd bynnag i digwyddo, i mae'n llawen genyf
gael odfa i dystiolaethu, fy mod yn mawrygu yn ddirfawr eich Cariad
a'ch traferch chwi at eich Gwlad a'ch Iaith; yn yr hyn i damunwn,
yn ol fy ngallu, eich canlyn; a datcan, yngwydd yr holl fyd, fy
mod, frodyr haeddbarch,

Eich Gwafanaethwr rhwymedig, gofyngeiddiaf,

E V A N E V A N S.

Spencer's letter to the
and also published in the
of the United States
in the year 1840
and the year 1841

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A T Y

C Y M R Y.

PAN welais fod un o *Ysgodogion Ucheldir Alban*, ac hefyd *Sais* dysgedig, wedi cyfieithu Gwaith eu hen Feirdd i'r *Saesoneg*; mi a dybygais mai nid gweddus i ni, y *Cymry*, y rhai fydd genym Gerddi awduraidd, gorhenaidd, o'r einom, fod yn llwyr ddiymdro yn y cyngaws hwnnw: o herwydd, hyd i gwn i, dyna'r unig ragorgamp celfyddyd a adawodd ein hynafiaid ini, fydd heb ei cholli. I mae *Gwaith y Derwyddon*, od oedd dim gwiwgof ganddynt wedi ei ysgrifennu, wedi myned ar ddifancoll; ac nid oes dim wedi dyfod i'n hoes ni oddiwrthynt, ond y Brydyddiaeth yn unig. I mae ein hen *Fusic* wedi ei llwyr ebargosio: nid yw'r cyweiriau Cwynfanus fydd genym yr awron ond dychymmygion diweddar, pan oedd y *Cymry* yn griddfan tan iau galed y *Saesfon*. Am Gelfyddydau eraill, od oedd dim mewn perffeithrwydd, i mae gwedi ei llwyr gollu. Nid oes genym ddim Hanes am ein Hynafiaid o'n hawduron ein hunain, ond oddiwrth y Beirdd yn unig, o flaen *Gildas ap Caw*; yr hwn fydd yn ein goganu, ac yn ein llurginio, yn hytrach nag ysgrifennu cywir Hanes am danom; ond fo wyr Hanesyddion yr achos: heblaw hyn, i mae ei waith ef wedi myned drwy ddwylo'r *Meneich*; Gwyr a fedrai yn dda ddigon, dylino pob peth i'w dibenion eu hunain.—Y Beirdd fal i tyftia *Giraldus* Arch-diacon *Brycheiniog*, oeddynt yn cadw Achau y Brenhinoedd, ac yn coffau eu gweithredoedd ardderchog; ac oddiwrthynt hwy yn ddiammau i deryw i *Dyffilia* fab *Brochwel Ysgythrog*, tywyfog.

tywyflog *Powys*, ysgrifennu'r *Hanes* fydd yr awron yn myned tan enw
 BRUT Y BRENHINOEDD, yr hwn a ddarfu i *Galfrid ap Arthur*, o
 Aber Mynwy, ei gyfieithu o iaith *Llydaw* i'r *Lladin*, ac oddiyno yn
Gymraeg; fel i mae ef ei hunan yn cyfaddef, mewn amryw hen go-
 piau ar femrwn, fydd etto i'w gwled yng Nghymru; ond ysywaeth,
 e ddarfu iddo chwanegu amryw chwedlau at hanes *Tysilio*: *Flamines*
 ac *Archiflames*, a phrophwydoliaeth *Myrddin Emrys*, a phethau
 eraill a fuasai harddach eu gadael heibio. Ped fuasai yn dilyn y
 Beirdd, e fuasai genym gywirach Hanes nag fydd genym yr awron: ond
 fel ag i mae, ni haeddai yn gwbl mor gogan i mae'r *Sacson*, o amfer
Camden, yn ei rhoi iddi; o herwydd i mae *Nennius*, yr hwn a ysgri-
 fennodd drychant o flynyddoedd o'i flaen, yn rhoddi yr un Hanes am
 ein Dechreuad. Ir wyf yn amcanu, os Duw a rydd im'hoedl ac
 iechyd, ofod allan yr awdur hwn a nodau helaeth arno, gyd ag
 amddiffyniad o'r Hanes; o herwydd ese yw'r Hanefydd hynaf a
 feddwn yn *Lladin*, oddigerth y *Gildas* uchod, yr hwn nid yw deilwng
 ei gyfrif yn Hanefydd; o herwydd nid dyna ei gyngyd na'i fympwy,
 yn ei *Epistolæ de excidio Britanniae*. Ir wyf yn methu a chaffael copi
 iawn o *Nennius*, ac ir wyf yn meddwl nad oes un yng Nghymru a
 dâl ddim, ond yn *Hengwrt*: da iawn er lles y Wlad a Hanefyddion
Prydain, i gwnai ei Berchennog adael i ryw wr dysgedig ei gymharu.
 I mae genyfi ddau gopi, ond i maent yn dra amherffaith; felly
 hefyd i mae'r rhai printiedig, o eiddo'r Dr. *Gale* a *Bertram*. Ni
 wiw i *Sais*, na neb dieithr, bydded mor ddysgedig ag i mynno, oni
 ddeall ef *Gymraeg* yn iawn, ac oni chaiff hefyd weled ein hen ysgri-
 fenadau a'n Beirdd ni, gytcam â'r fath waith. Nid yw *Camden*, er
 dysgedicced, diwytted, a manyled gwr ydoedd, ond ymleferydd am
 lawer o bethau yn ei *Britannia*; a hynny yn unig, o achos nad oedd
 yn medru yr iaith yn well. A grefyn yw, nad oedd y *Sacson*, y rhai
 oeddynt yn ddiau (rai o naddunt) yn chwilio pethau yn dêg, ac yn
 ddiduedd dros ben, y cyfryw ag ydoedd *Leland*, *Usher*, a *Selden*, yn
 deall

deall ein Iaith, a medru gwneuthur defnydd o'n hen Lyfrau: o herwydd hyn, nid oeddynt, er cymmaint eu dysg a'u dawn, ddim i'w cyffelybu ag *Wmffre Llwyd* o *Ddinbych*, a *Rhobert Fychan* o'r *Hengwrt*, fel i mae eu gwaith yn eglur ddangos. Ac yn ddiau, mae yn ammhofibl i undyn, bydded mor gywreiniad ag i mynno, wneuthur dim â ffrwyth ynddo, heb gaffael gweled yr hen ysgrifenedig, fydd yn gadwedig yn llyfr-gelloedd y boneddigion yng *Nghymru*; yn enwedig yn *Hengwrt*, a *Llan Ffordaf*. Myfia welais, ac a gesais fenthyg amryw lyfrau o waith llaw, yn llyfrgrawn yr anrhydeddus *Robert Davies*, ysg. o *Lannerch* yn swydd *Ddinbych*; a Syr *Roger Mostyn* yng *Ngloddaitb*, seneddwr dros Swydd *Fflint*; a chan yr anrhydeddus *William Fychan*, ysg. o *Gors y Gedol*, seneddwr dros swydd *Feirionydd*; yr hyn ni fedraf lai nâ'i fynegi yma yngwydd y byd, er coffau eu Cymmwynas a'u hewyllys da i'n Gwlad a'n Iaith, ac i minnau hefyd; yn ol arfer canmoladwy, a haelioni yr hen *Frythor* gynt.

OND i ddysfod weithion at y Beirdd, y rhai a adawfom ar ol. Ef a ddarfu imi gyfieithu ychydig odlau o'u Gwaith, trwy annogaeth Gwyr dysgedig o *Loegr*; ac mi a ewyllyfiwn wneuthur o honof hynny er clod iddynt; ond i mae yn rhaid im' adael hynny ym marn y darllenyddion: ac nid oes genyfi ddim i'w ddywedyd, os drwg yw'r cyfieithiad, nad arnaf i yn llwyr i mae'r bai yn sefyll; o herwydd i maent y Beirdd yn ddiammau yn orcheftol odiaeth; ond i mae'n rhaid addef hefyd eu bod yn anhawdd afrifed eu deongli, o herwydd eu bod yn llawn o eiriau fydd yr awron wedi myned ar gyfrgoll: ac nid ydynt wedieue hieglurhau mewn un Geiriadur argraphedig nac ysgrifenedig a welais i. Ir oedd yr Athraw hynod o *Fallwyd*, yr hwn a astudiodd yr Iaith, er lles cyffredin y wlad, dros holl ddyddiau ei einioes, yn methu eu deongli. Ac ni wnaeth y dysgedig Mr. *Edward Llwyd* o'r *Museum*, gamp yn y byd yn y perwyl yma, er ei fod yn gydnabyddus â holl geinciau prisiaith *Prydain*. Ac yn ddiau o'r

achos yma, nid oedd genyfi ddim ond ymbalfalu am ystyr a synwyr y Beirdd, mewn llawer man, oddiwrth flaen ac ol. Ir wyf yn rhyfeddu'n ddirfawr am rai o'r Cymry fydd yn haeru fod gwaith *Taliesin*, ai gydoefiaid *Aneurin Gwawdrydd*, *Llywarch Hen*, a *Merddin Wyllt*, yn hawdd eu deall. Yn ddiau nid wyf i yn deall mo honynt, ac i mae'r rhai dysgediccaf yn yr Iaith, y to heddyw, yn addef yr un peth. I mae'r Beirdd, hir oesoedd gwedi hynny, sef ar ol dyfodiad *Gwilym Fasdardd*, hyd farwolaeth *Llywelyn ap Gruffydd*, yn dywyll iawn; fal i gellwch weled oddiwrth yr odlau fydd yn canlyn. Hyn a barodd i mi beidio â chyfieithu chwaneg o honynt y tro yma, rhag ofn imi, trwy fy anwybodaeth, wneuthur cam â hwynt. Ond gan i'r *Saesŏn* daeru, na feddwn ddim mewn prydiddiaeth a dâl ei ddangos; mi a wnaethum fy ngorau er cyfieithu y Casgliad bychan yma, i fwrw heibio, os yw bcsfibl, y gogan hwnnw: ac yn ddiau, os na lwyddodd genyf wneuthur hynny, i mae yn rhaid i'r Beirdd, a'm Cydwladwyr, faddeu imi; a gobeithio i derbyniant fy ewyllys da, herwydd na ddichon neb wneuthur ond a allo. —Heblaw hyn oll, i mae hyn o waith yn dyfod i'r byd, mewn amfer anghyfaddas i ymddangos mewn dim prydferthwch; o herwydd i mae un o drigolion yr *Uch Alban*, gwedi gosod allan ddau lyfr o *Waith Ossian*; hen Fardd, meddai ef, cyn dyfod Cristianogaeth i'w plith. Ac i mae'r llyfrau hyn mewn rhagorbarch gan foneddigion dysgedig y *Saesŏn*. A rhaid addef eu bod wedi eu cyfieithu yn odidog: ond i mae arnafi ofn, wedi'r cwbl, fod yr *Ysgodog* yn bwrw hug ar lygaid dynion, ac nad ydynt mor hen ag i mae ef yn taeru eu bod. I mae'r *Gwyddelod* yn arddelw *Ossian* megis un o'u Cydwladwyr hwynt; ac i mae amryw bethau yn y Cerddi a gyhoeddwyd yn ei enw, yn dangos, yn fy nhyb i, oes ddiweddarach nag i mae'r cyfieithydd yn son am dani; yn enwedig dyfodiad Gwyr *Llychlyn* i'r *Iwerddon*, yr hyn ni ddigwyddodd, meddai Hanefyddion yr *Iwerddon*, cyn y flwyddyn 700. Ac ni ddaeth yr *Ysgodogion* chwaith i sefydlu yn yr *Alban*, o flaen *Fergus Mac Ein*, ynghylch y flwyddyn 503; fal i mae

mae *William Llwyd*, Esgob *Caer Wrangon*, wedi ei brofi yn ddiwrthadl, yn ei lyfr ynghylch llywodraeth eglwyfig. Ond pei canniatteid eu bod hwy yno cyn hynny, ni fyddai hynny ronyn nes i brofi *Ossian* mor hyned ag i dywedir ei fod. O herwydd ped fuasai, Pa fodd i mae ei gyfieithydd yn medru ei ddeongli mor hyfedr? I mae gwaith ein Beirdd ni, fydd gant o flynyddoedd ar ol hynny, tu hwnt i ddeall y Gwyr cywreiniaf a medrusaf yn yr hen *Frutaniaith*. Pwy o honom ni a gymmerai'r *Gododin*, Gwaith *Aneurin Gwawdrydd*, Fychdeyrn Beirdd, a'i gyfieithu mor llathraidd ag i gwnaeth cyfieithydd *Ffingal* a *Themora*? Ir wyfi yn meddwl nad oes neb a ryfygei gymmeryd y fath orcheft arno. Prin iawn i medrais i ddeongli rhai pennillion o hono yma a thraw, y rhai a ellwch eu gweled yn y traethawd *Lladin* ynghylch y Beirdd. A gresyn yw ei fod mor dywyll, o herwydd, hyd ir wyf i yn ei ddeall, Gwaith godidog ydyw. Yr un peth a ellir ei ddywedyd am *Daliesin* Ben Beirdd, nid oes neb heddyw, hyd i gwn i, a fedr gyfieithu yn iawn un o'i Awdlau na'i Orchanau. Myfi a wn fod amryw Frudiau ar hyd y wlad, wedi eu tadogi ar *Daliesin* a *Myrddin*; ond nid ydynt ond dychymygion diweddar, gwedi eu ffurfeiddio ar ol marwolaeth *Llywelyn ap Gruffydd*. Yn enwedig yn amseroedd terfysgld *Owain Glyndwr*, a'r ymdrech rhwng pleidiau *Efrog* a *LANCASTER*. I mae hefyd eraill, gwedi eu lluniaethu gan y Meneich, i ateb eu dibenion hwythau; ond i mae'r rhain oll yn hawdd eu gwahanu oddiwrth awduraidd waith *Taliesin*, wrth yr Iaith.—I mae yn ddiammau genyf, fod y Bardd yma yn odidog yn ei amser. Ir oedd yn gydnabyddus ag athrawiaeth y *Derwyddon* am y *μετεμψύχωσις*, a'r Daroganau, y rhai oeddynt yn ddiammau weddillion o'r Credo paganaidd; canys nid yw daroganu ddim arall ond mynegi pethau i ddyfod, oddiwrth y *Ddar*, yr hon ir oeddynt y *Derwyddon* yn ei pherchi yn fawr iawn. A chan ei fod ef yn wr llys, ac yn byw yn yr oes anwybodus honno, ir oedd yr hyn a ddywedai yn cael ei

P

dderbyn

dderbyn a'i roesawu gan y gwerinos; megis ped fuasai wir broffwyd. A hynny a ellir ei ddywedyd hefyd am *Ferddin Emrys*, a'i broffwydoliaeth. Mor anhawdd yw tynnu ofergoelion eu Hynafiaid, oddiwrth un Wlad neu Genedl!

E DDICHON rhai o honoch ysgatfydd ofyn, Pahan na buafwn yn cyfieithu rhai o'r Beirdd godidog diweddar, a ysgrifenasant wedi diwygio yr hen gynghanedd? I'r rhain ir wyf yn ateb, fod y Beirdd yn amfery Tywyfogion yn swy ardderchog a mawryddig yn eu Gwaith; ac ir oeddynt eu hunain, rai o naddunt, yn Dywyfogion, ac yn Wyr dyledogion; yn enwedig, *Owain Cyfeiliog*, Tywyfog *Powys*; a *Hywel ap Owain Gwynedd*, Bardd a rhyfelwr godidog; ac felly ir oeddynt yn fwy penigamp nâ'r Beirdd diweddar, o ran eu testunau. Canys ir oedd y Beirdd diweddar, fel i mae *Sion Dafydd Rhys* yn achwyn arnynt, yn gwenieithio i'r Gwyr mawr, ac yn dywedyd celwydd ar eu cân; ac yn haeru iddynt dorri cestyll, lladd a llosgi, pryd ir oeddynt, eb ef, yn cyfgu yn eu gwelyau, heb ddim mo'r fath feddwl nac amcan ganddynt. Eithr yn amfer y Tywyfogion, o'r gwrthwyneb; ir oedd y Beirdd yn dystion o ddewredd a mawfrydigrwydd eu Tywyfogion; ac ir oeddynt eu hunain yn filwyr glewion. Ir oedd *Meilir Brydydd* yn gennad dros *Ruffydd ap Cynan* at Frenin *Lloegr*; ac ir oedd *Gwalchmai*, ei fab, yn Flaenor câd ynghyffinydd *Lloegr* a *Chymru*; fel i maent ill dau yn tyftiolaethu yn eu Cerddi. Heblaw hyn, ir oedd y Tywyfogion yma yn fuddugawl yn eu rhyfeloedd a'r *Saeson*, ac ir oedd hynny yn peri i'r Beirdd ymorcheftu, i dragywyddoli eu gweithredoedd ardderchog; ac i foli eu gwroldeb, mewn achos mor glodfawr ag amddiffyn eu Gwlad a'u Rhyddid, yn erbyn Estron genedl, a'u difuddiafei o Drestadaeth eu Hynafiaid. Ir oedd y rhain yn ddiau yn Destunau gwiw i Feirdd ganu arnynt, ac yn fodd cymmwys i beri i'w Deiliaid eu perchi a'u hanrhydeddu; Canys ir oedd y cerddi godidog yma yn cael eu datgan gyda'r Delyn, mewn Cyweiriau cyfaddas,
mewn

mewn Gwleddau yn Llys y Tywyfog, ac yn Neuaddau y Pendefigion a'r Uchelwyr. I mae *Giraldus* yn dywedyd, fod y *Cymry* mor ddrud a milwraidd yn ei amfer ef, ag na rufynt ymladd yn noeth ac yn ddiaflog, â'r rhai arfog, llurigog; a'r Pedydd yn erbyn y Marchogion. Yn ddiau nid oedd un modd a ellid ei ddychymmygu well, i gynnal yr yspryd dihafarch yma yn ein Hynafiaid, nâ chael eu moli gan y Beirdd. Ac e wyddai'r *Saesŏn* hynny yn dda ddigon; Canys ar ol darostwng *Cymru* tan eu llywodraeth, e ddarfu iddynt ddihenyddu'r Beirdd trwy'r holl Wlad. I mae llyfrau ystatud *Lloegr*, yn llawn o Gyfreithiau creulon i'w herbyn, ac yn gwarafun yn gaeth iddynt ymarfer o'u hen Ddefodau, o Glera a chymhortha. Yn amser *Owain Glyndŵr*, i cawfant ychydig feibiant a chynhwysiad i ganu; ond gwedi hynny, hyd ddyfodiad *Harri'r Seithfed*, ir oeddynt tan gwm-mwl. Gwedi iddo ef ddyfod i Lywodraethu, ac yn amfer ei fab *Harri'r Wythfed*, a'r Frenhines *Elisabeth*, y rhai a hanoeddynt o waed *Cymreig*, i cawfant gynhwysladau i gynnal Eisteddfodau: ond ni pharhaodd hynny ond ennyd fechan, o herwydd Bonedd *Cymru* a ymroisant i fod yn *Saesŏn*, fel i maent yn parhau gan mwyaf hyd y dydd heddyw.

OND i mae rhai yn yr oes yma yn chwenychu eu cadw a'u coled, er mwyn eu hiaith ddigymmysg, ac er mwyn gwell gwybodaeth o foefau ac ansawdd ein Hynafiaid; ac er mwyn eu teilyngdod eu hunain; o herwydd i mae yn rhai o'u Hawdlau a'u Cywyddau, ymadroddion mor gywraint a naturiol ag fydd ym Mhrydyddion *Groeg* a *Rhufain*; mal i gwyr y sawl a'u deallant yn dda.—Ymysg eraill, i mae Cymdeithas y *Cymmrodorion*, yn *Llundain*, yn rhoddi mowrbarch iddynt; ac yn chwenychu cadw cynnifer o'n hen ysgrifenedau ag fydd heb fyned ar goll. A da i gwneynt Foneddigion *Cymru*, ped ymorawent am argraffu y pethau mwyaf hynod a gwiwgof mewn Pry-

dyddiaeth, Hanesion, ac eraill hen Goffadwriaethau; o herwydd i maent beunydd yn cael eu difrodi, gan y sawl ni wyddant ddim gwell. Hyn, er lles ein Gwlad a'n Iaith, yw gwir a diffuant ddamuniad.

Eich gofgyngedig wafanaethwr, a'ch ewyllysiwr da,

E V A N E V A N S.

H I R L A S.

I.

H I R L A S O W E I N.

Owein Cyfeiliog e hun ai cant.

GWAWR pan ddwyre gawr a ddoded,
 Galon yn anfon anfudd dynged,
 Geleurudd ein gwyr gwedi lludded trwm,
 Tremit gofwy mur *Maelawr Drefred*.

Deon a yrrais dygyhyffed,
 Diarfwyd a'r frwydr arfau goched,
 A rygoddwy glew gogeled rhagddaw,
 Gnawd yw oi ddygnaw ddefnydd codded!

Dywallaw di fenestr gan foddhæd,
 Y Corn yn llaw *Rhys* yn llys llyw ced,
 Llys *Owain* ar braidd yt ryborthed erioed,
 Porth mil a glywi pyrth egored.

Menestr am gorthaw, nam adawed
 Eftyn y Corn er cyd yfed,
 Hiraethlawn am llyw lliw ton nawfed,
 Hirlas i arwydd aur i dudded:

A dyddwg

A dyddwg o fragawd wirawd orgred,
Ar llaw *Wgan* draws dros i weithred,
Canawon *Goronwy*, gwrdd gynnired gwyth,
Canawon hydwyth, hydr eu gweithred :
Gwyr a obryn tal ymhob caled,
Gwyr yngawr gwerthfawr gwrdd ymwared,
Bugelydd *Hafren* balch eu clywed,
Bugunat cyrn medd mawr a wna neued.

Dywallaw di'r corn argynfelyn,
Anrhydeddus, feddw, o fedd gorewyn,
Ac o'r mynni hoedl hyd un blwyddyn,
Na ddidawl i barch, can nid perthyn,
A dyddwc i *Ruffudd* waywruddelyn,
Gwin a gwydr goleu yn ei gylchyn,
Dragon *Arwyflli*, arwyfll terfyn,
Dragon *Owain* hael o hil *Cynfyn*,
Dragon iw dechreu, ac niw dychryn cat,
Cyflafan argrat cymyw erlyn.
Cetwyr ydd aethant er clod obryn :
Cyseddon, arfawc, arfau *Edwyn*,
Talaffant i medd mal gwyr *Belyn* gynt,
Teg i hydrefynt tra fo undyn.

Dywallaw di'r corn, canys amcan cennyf,
Ydd ymgyrryw glyw gloyw ymddiddan,
Ar llaw ddehau ein llyw gyflafan,
Lluch y dan ysgwyd ysgawn lydan,
Ar llaw *Ednyfet* llawr diogan lew,
Ergyrwayw trylew, trei i darian.

Terfysc

Terfysc ddyffysc ddeu ddiofn anian,
Torrynt torredwynt uch teg adfan,
Teleirw ynghyngrein ynghyfran brwydr,
Tal ysgwyd eurgrwydr torrynt yn fuan :
Tryliw eu pelydr gwedi penwan,
Trylwyn yn amwyn amwiw *Garthan*.
Cigleu ym *Maelawr* gawr fawr fuan,
A garw ddisgyrr gwyr, a gwyth erwan,
Ac ymgynnull am drull am dramwyan,
Fal i bu ym *Mangor* am ongyr dân :
Pan wnaeth dau deyrn uch cyrn cyfrdan,
Pan fu gyfeddach *Forach Forfran*.

Dywallaw di'r corn, canys myfyr gennyf,
Men ydd amygant medd a'n tymmyr,
Selyf diarfwyt Orsaf *Gwygyr*,
Gogelet ai cawdd calon eryr !
Ac unmab *Madaewc*, enwawg *Dudur* hael,
Hawl bleiddiad, lleiddiad, lluch ar ysgyr,
Deu arwreidd, deu lew, yn eu Cyngyr,
Deu arial dywal dau fab *Ynyr*,
Dau rydd yn nydd cad eu Cyfergyr,
Cyfargor diachor camp diachyr,
Arfod llewod gwrdd, gwrddwan cadwyr,
Aer gunieid, lunieid, coch eu hongyr,
Treis erwyr yn ffwyr ffaw ehgyr,
Trei eu dwy aefawr dan un ystyr,
Gorfu gwynt gwaeddfan uch glan glasfyr,
Gorddwy clau tonnau *Talgarth* ystyr.

Dywallaw

Dywallaw di fenestr na fyn angau,
 Corn can anrhydedd ynghyfeddau,
 Hirlas buelin, breint uchel hen ariant,
 Ai gortho nid gorthenau :
 A dyddwg i *Dudur*, eryr aerau,
 Gwirawd gyffefin o'r gwin gwinau,
 Oni ddaw i mewn o'r medd gorau oll,
 Gwirawd o ban, dy ben faddau,
 Ar llaw *Foreiddig*, llochiad cerddau,
 Cerddyn hyn i glod cyn oer adnau,
 Dieithr frodyr fryd ucheldau,
 Diarchar arial a dan dalau,
 Cedwyr am gorug gwafanaethau,
 Nid ym hyn dihyll nam hen deheu
 Cynnifield, gyrthieid, fleinieid, fleiddiau,
 Cynfaran creulawn creulyd ferau,
 Glew glyw *Mochnannwys* o *Bowys* beu :
 O glew gwnedd arnaddunt deu,
 Achubieit pob rheid, rhudd eu harfeu :
 Echedwynt rhag terfysc eu terfynau,
 Moliant yw eu rhann y rhei gwynnau ;
 Marwnad fu neud mi newid y ddau !
 O chan Grist mor drift wyf o'r anaeleu !
 O goll *Moreiddig* mawr ei eiffieu.

Dywallaw di'r corn can nim puchant,
 Hirlas yn llawen yn llaw *Forgant*,
 Gwr a ddyly gwawd gwahan foliant,
 Gwenwyn y addwyn, gwan edrywant,

Areglydd defnydd dioddefiant llafn,
Llyfn i deutu llym ei hamgant.

Dywallaw di fenestr o lestr Ariant,
Celennyg edmyg, can urdduniant,
Ar llawr *Gwestun* fawr gwelais irdant,
Ardwy *Goronwy* oedd gweith i gant,
Cedwyr cyfarfaeth ydd ymwnaethant,
Cad ymerbynieid, eneid dichwant,
Cyfarfu ysgwn ac ysgarant aer,
Llas aer, llofget maer ger mor lliant:
Mwynfawr o garcharawr a gyrchaffant,
Meurig fab Gruffydd grym ddarogant,
Neud oedd gochwys pawb pan atgorfant,
Neud oedd lawn o heul hirfryn a phant.

Dywallaw di'r corn ir cynnifeid,
Canawon *Owain*, cyngrein, cydneid,
Wynt a ddyrlyddant yn lle honneid,
Glud men ydd ant gloyw heyrn ar neid:
Madawc a *Meilir* gwyr gorddyfneid treis,
Tros gyferwyr gyferbynieid:
Tariannogion torf, terfysc ddysgeid,
Trinheion faon, traws ardweid.
Ciglau am dal medd myned dreig *Cattraeth*,
Cywir eu harvaeth, arfau lliweid,
Gosgordd Fynyddawc am eu cysgeid,
Cawffiant y hadrawdd cas flawdd flaenieid;
Ni wnaeth a wnaeth fynghedwyr ynghalet *Faelor*,
Dillwng Carcharor dullest foleid.

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Dywallaw

Dywallaw di fenestr fedd hidlaid, melus,
Ergyrwayw gwrys gochwys yn rheid,
O gyrrn buelin balch oreuraid,
Yr gobryn gobrwyau henaidd;
O'r gynnifer anhun a borth cynnieid
Nis gwyr namyn Duw ac ai dywaid.

Gwr ni dal ni dwng, ni bydd wrth wir,
Daniel dreig cannerth, mor ferth hewir,
Menestr mawr a gweith yd ioleithir
Gwyr ni oleith lleith, oni llochir,
Menestr medd ancwyn a'n cydroddir,
Gwrdd-dan gloyw, goleu, gwrddloyw babir
Menestr gwelud dy gwyth yn Llidwm dir
Y gwyr a barchaf wynt a berchir.
Menestr gwelud dy galchdoed Cyngrein,
Ynghylchyn *Owain* gylchwy enwir,
Pan breiddwyd Cawres, taerwres trwy dir,
Preidd oftwng orflwng a orfolir,
Menestr nam didawl, nim didolir,
Boed ym mharadwys in cynhwyfir,
Can pen teyrnedd, poed hir eu trwydded,
Yn i mae gweled gwaranred gwir.

AMEN.

AWDL

II.

A W D L

I Fyfanwy Fechan o Gastell Dinas Bran.

NEUD wyf ddihunwyf, hoen Creirwy hoywdeg,
 Am hudodd mal Garwy,
 O fan or byd rwyngwyd rwy,
 O fynor gaer Fyfanwy.

Trymmaf yw Cariad tramwy, hoen eurnef,
 Hyn arnaf dy faccwy,
 Dy far feinwar Fyfanwy,
 Ar ath gar ni fu far fwy.

Gofyn ni allawdd namyn gofwy cur,
 Dyn mewn cariad fwy fwy,
 Fynawg eirian Fyfanwy,
 Fuchudd ael fun hael fyw'n hwy.

Eurais wawd ddidlawd, ddadl rwy adneuboen,
 Adnabod Myfanwy,
 Poen ath gar afar ofwy,
 Poen brwyn ei ryddwyn i ddwy.

Gorwydd, cyrch ebrwydd, ceirch ebran addas,
Dwg driftwas, dig Drystan,
Llwrw buost, farch llary buan,
Lle arlloes fre eurllys Fran.

Gwn beunydd herwydd herw amcan, ddilyd
Ddelw berw Caswennan :
Golwg, deddf amlwg diddan,
Gwelw, freich fras brenhinblas Bran.

Gyrrais a llidiais farch bronn llydan, hoyw,
Er hoen blodau firian :
Gyrrawd ofal yr Alban,
Garrhir braisc ucheldir Bran.

Lluniais wawd, ddefawd ddifan, traul ofer,
Nid trwy lafur bychan :
Lliw eiry cynnar pen Aran,
Lloer bryd, lwys fryd o lys Fran.

Mireinwawr Drefawr dra fo brad im dwyn,
Gwarando fy nghwyn, frwyn freuddwydiad,
Mau glwyf a mowrnwyf murniad, huno heb
Gwrtheb teg ateb tuac attad
Mi dy fardd digardd, dygn gyftuddiad Rhun,
Gyfun laes wannllun ith lys winllad.
Mynnu ddwyf draethu heb druthiad na gwyd
Wrthyd haul gymmryd, gamre wasdad.
Mynnud hoyw fun loyw oleuad gwledydd,
Glodrydd, gain gynnydd, nid gan gennad,

Maint

Maint anhun haelfun hwylfad, em cyfoeth.
Ddoeth, fain oleugoeth, fy nau lygad,
Medron boen goroen nid digarad was,
Heb ras, mau drachas om edrychiad.
Magwyr murwydr hydr, hydreiddiad lwyfle,
Mygrwedd haul fore eurne arnad.
Megais llwyr gludais llawer gwlad, yn ddwys,
Dy glod lwys, cynnwys pob datceiniad,
Mal hy oedd ymmy, am wyl gariad graen,
Myfanwy hoen blaen eiry gaen gawad.
Meddwl ferchawl, hawl, lliw ton hwyliad welw,
Arddelw dygynnelw heb dy gynheiliad.
Modd trist im gwnaeth Crist croesdog neirthiad llwyr,
Wanwyr oi fynwyr drwy lud fenniad.
Murn boen a mi om anynad hawl,
Serchawl eneidiawl un fynediad.
Mul i bwriais, trais tros ddirnad Duw gwyn,
Tremyn ar ddillyn porphor ddillad.
Megis ti ferch rhi, rhoddiad gymmyrredd,
Mwyfwy anrhydedd, wledd wledychiad.
Marw na byw, nwyf glyw gloyw luniad cyngaws,
Hoednaws nid anaws im am danad.
Meddwl ofeiliaint braint braidd im gad llefmair,
I gael yr eilgair wrth offeiriad.
Masw imi brofi, brif draethiad a wnawn,
Lle nim rhoddi iawn, ne gwawn, na gwad.
Mesur cawdd anawdd i ynad eglur,
Adrawdd fy nolur ddwyfsgur ddyfsgiad.
Modd nad gwiw, lliw lleuad rhianedd,
Nam gwedd hud garedd, nam hoed girad.

Meinir nith borthir, gwn borthiad poenau,
Yn nenn hoen blodau blawd yspyddad.
Medraist, aur delaist adeilad gwawd,
Im nychdawd ddifrawd ddyfrys golliad.
Meddylia oth ra ath rad, ith brydydd
Talu y carydd Duw dofydd dad.
Prydydd wyf, tros glwyf, trais glud, poen gwaneg,
Iaith laesdeg ith lwyfddud :
Fynawg riain fain funud :
Fun arlludd hun eirllwydd hud.
Im neud glud, dy hud hydr, riain walleddf,
O'r wenllys ger Dinbrain :
Aml yw gwawd gynnefawd gain,
Om araith ith dwf mirain.

Howel ap Einion Lygliw ai cant.

III.

A W D L

A gant Dafydd Benfras, i Lewelyn fab Iorwerth.

GWR a wnaeth llewych o'r gorllewin,
 Haul a lloer addoer, addef ieffin,
 Am gwnel, radd uchel, rwyf cyfychwin,
 Cyflawn awen, awydd *Fyrddin*,
 I ganu moliant mal *Aneurin* gynt,
 Dydd i cant *Ododin*.

I foli gwyndawd *Gwyndyd* werin,
Gwynedd bendefig, ffynnedig ffin,
 Gwanas deyrnas, deg cywrennin,
 Gwreidd, teyrneidd, taer ymrwydrin,
 Gwrawl ei fflamdo am fro Freiddin.
 Er pan orau Duw dyn gyffefin,
 Ni wnaeth ei gystal traws arial trin.
 Gorug *Llywelyn*, orllin teyrnedd,
 Ar y brenhinedd braw a gorddin
 Pan fu yn ymbrofi a brenin *Lloegyr*,
 Yn llygru swydd *Erbin*.

Oedd breisc, weisc ei fyddin,
 Oedd brwyfc rwyfc rhag y godorin,
 Oedd balch gwalch, golchiad ei laîn,

Oedd

Oedd beilch gweilch, gweled ei werin,
Oedd clywed cleddyfau finfin,
Oedd clybod clwyf ymhob elin,
Oedd briw rhiw yn nhrabludd odrin,
Oedd braw saw *Saeson* clawdd y *Cnwccin*,
Oedd bwlch llafn yn llaw gynnefin,
Oedd gwaedlyd pennau, gwedi gwaedlin rhwy,
Yn rhedeg am ddeulin.

Llywelyn, ein llyw cyffredin,
Llywiawdr berth hyd *Borth Ysgewin*,
Ni ryfu gyftal *Gwstennin* ag ef,
I gyfair pob gorllin.

Mi im byw be byddwn ddewin,
Ym marddair, ym mawrddawn gyffefin,
Adrawdd ei ddaed aerdrin ni allwn,
Ni allai *Daliefin*.

Cyn adaw y byd gyd gyfrin,
Gan hoedyl hir ar dir daierin,
Cyn dyfnfedd escyrnwedd yscrin,
Cyn daear dyfnlas, arleffin,
Gwr a wnaeth o'r dwfr y gwin,
Gan fodd Duw a diwedd gwirin,
Nog a wnaethpwyd trais anwyd trin,
Ymhresant ymhrysur orllin :
Ni warthäer hael am werthefin nos,
A nawdd faint boed cyfrin.

CANU

IV.

C A N U

*I Lywelyn fab Iorwerth. Einiawn fab Gwgawn ai
cant.*

CYFARCHAF o'm naf, am nefawl Arglwydd,
Crist Celi culwydd, cwl i ddidawl,
Celfydd leferydd o le gweddawl,
Celfyddydau mau ni fo marwawl:
I brofi pob peth o bregeth *Bawl*,
I foli fy rhi, rhwyf angerddawl,
Rhyfel ddiochel, ddiochwyth hawl,
Llywelyn heilyn, hwylfeirdd waddawl,
Llawenydd i ddydd, i ddeddf ai mawl,
Llewychedig llafn yn llaw reddfawl,
Yn lladd, dy wrthladd iwrth lys *Rheidiawl*,
Gweleis a gerais ni gar mantawl,
Gwelygordd *Lleision* llyffoedd gweddawl,
Lluoedd arwoloedd ar weilw didawl,

R

Llawrwyr

Llawrwyr am eryr yn ymeiriawl,
Llywelyn lleyn, llyw ardderchawl,
 Lluriglas, gwanas, gwanau a hawl,
 Gwenwyn yn amwyn am dir breiniawl *Powys*,
 Ae diffiwys, ae glwys a glyw ei hawl,
 Ef dynniad ynghad, *Eingl* frad freuawl,
 Ef dandde rhuddle *Rhuddlan* is gwawl,
 Gweleis *Lywelyn*, eurdyn urddawl,
 Yn urddas dreigwas dragywyddawl,
 Eil gweleis i dreis dros ganol *Dyfrdwy*,
 Yn y trei tramwy llanw rhwy, rhwydd hawl
 Gweleis aer am gaer oedd engiriawl,
 Tala pwyth dydd gwyth, canyseawl,
 Ni ryweleis neb na bo canmawl,
 O'r ddau y gorau a fo gwrawl.

Mi ath arwyre, ath arwyrein myfyr,
 Eryr yn rhywyr, prifwyr *Prydein*.
 Prydfawr *Lywelyn* pryd dyn dadiein,
 Prydus, diescus, escar ddilein.
 Escynnu ar llu ar lle *Ewein*,
 Ysgymmod gorfod, gorfalch am brein,
 Ysgymmyn gwerlyn, gwerlid goffein,
 Ysgymydd clodrydd, *Kulwydd* a *Llwyfein*,
 Lluddedig edmyg, meirch mawrthig mein;
 A lluoedd yngwiscoedd yn ymoscrein,
 Ar llinyn ar dynn ar du celein,
 A llinon rhag Bron rhag bro *Eurgein*,
 Tyrfa *Clawdd Offa* clod yn hoffiein,
 A thorfoedd *Gwynedd* a gwyr *Llundein*,

Cyfran

Cyfran tonn a glan, glasdir gwylein,
Golud mowr ystrud, ysgryd *Norddmein*,
Llywelyn terwyn, torf anghyngain,
Biau'r gwyr gorau, bachau bychein,
Priodawr mwynglawr *Mon* glod yscein,
Areul golud pentud, *Pentir Gwrychein*.
Gwawr *Debau* gorau, gwyr yn dyrein,
Gwenwyn a gwanar y ddau gar gein,
Ae lyw cyferyw, cyfwyrein a thrin,
A thrychieid gwerin *Caer Fyrddin* fein,
Ni fefis na thwr, na bwr, bu crein,
Nag argoed, na choed, na chadlys drein,
A rhag pyrth bu syrth *Saesŷon* ynghrein.
Oedd trist maer, oedd claer cleddyf heb wein,
A chan llu pannu, pen ar ddigrein,
A chan llaw lludwaw *Llan Huadein*,
Cil Geran achlan, a chlod goelfein,
A chlwyf ar dyhedd, mawredd mirein,
Yn *Aber Teifi* tew oedd frein uch benn,
Yn yd oedd perchen parchus gyfrein.
Oedd tew peleidr creu, creuynt gigfrein,
Calanedd gorwedd gorddyfnassein,
Llywelyn boed hyn boed hwy ddichwein,
No *Llywarch* hybarch, hybar gigwein.
Nid celadwy dreig, dragon gyngain,
Nid calan cyman gwr y gymein,
Hydwf yngnif ai lif o lein,
Hyd ydd el yn rhyfel hyd yn *Rhufein*,
Ai raglod ai rod o riw Feddgein,
Hyd i dwyre haul hyd y dwyrein.

Ys imi rwydd Arglwydd, argleidradd,
 Argledr tir, a gwir a gwenwlad,
 Ys imi or cyngor cyngwasdad,
 Cywesti peri peleidradd,
 Ys imi ri ryfel ddiffreiddiad,
 Diffryd gwyr, eryr ardwyad,
 Ys imi rwydd Arglwydd, erglywiad
 A glywir o'r tir gar *Tanad*,
 Ys imi glew, a llew a lleiddiad
 Yn rhyfel a rhon orddyfniad,
 Ys imi wr a wared i rad,
 I reidus, galarus, geilwad.
 Ys imi ner yn arwyn ddillad,
 Yn arwein ysgin yfgarlad,
 Ys imi *Nudd*, hael fudd, Hueil feiddiad,
 Ar *Lloegr* ryllygrwys heb wad.
 Ys imi *Rydderch*, roddiad aur melyn,
 Molitor ymhob gwlad.
 A mawrdud olud olygad,
 A *Mordaf* am alaf eiliad,
 Ys imi *Run* gatcun gytcam rad,
 Cydgaffael, a hael, a hwyliad
 Ef imi y meddwl difrad,
 Mi iddaw yn llaw yn llygad,
 Ni henyw o afryw afrad,
 Mi hanwyf o henwyr ei dad,
 Llachar far, aerfar, erfynniad,
 Llachar fron o frydau *Gwriad*.
 Lluchieint gweilch am walch gynnifiad,
 Fal lluchynt estrawn wynt *Ystrad*.

Hunydd nen perchen parchus fad,
 Parch arfawr, *Arfon* angoriad.
Llywelyn dreis, erlyn drwffiad,
 Dros *Debau* angau oth angad,
 Angor mor y mawr gymynad,
 Angawr llawr llurig Duw am danad.

Rhy chyngein *Prydein* yn ddibryder,
 I Briodawr llawr yn llawn nifer.

Llywelyn gelyn yn i galwer
 I gelwir am dir am dud tymer.
 Llawenydd lluoedd llew ymhryder,
 Llywiawdr ymmerawdr mor a lleufer,
 I ddylif cynnif cynhebyccer
 I ddylann am lann, am leiffiaid ffer.
 Terfysc tonn ddilysc ddyleinw aber :
 Dylad anwasdad ni osteccer.
 Terwynt twrf rhywynt yn rhyw amfer,
 A rhialluoedd lluoedd llawer.
 Torfoedd ynghyhoedd ynghyflawnder
 Tariannau golau mal i gweler :
 Ry folant anant, anaw cymer,
 Ry molir i wir i orober,
 I wryd yn rhyd yn rheid nifer,
 I orofn gwraf yn ydd eler,
 I orfod gorfod glod a glywer,
 I wyr am eryr ni amharer,
 I warae orau pan waräer,
 I wayw a orau yn ddau hanner,

Dinidr

Dinidr yn nyddr brwyd yn yd brofer,
 Dinoding perging, pargoch hydrfer,
 Dinas, dreig urddas, eurddawn haelder
 Dinag o fynag pan ofynner,
 Dyn yw *Lhwelyn* llywiawdr tyner,
 Doeth coeth cywrennin, gwin a gwener,
 A'r gwr ai rhoddës ni ran o'r pader,
 Ai rhoddo ef gwenfro gwynfryn uch fer.

ARWYRAIN

A R W Y R A I N

Owain Gwynedd. Gwalchmai ai cant.

A RDDWYREAF hael o hil *Rodri*,
 Ardwyad gorwlad, gwerlin teithi,
 Teithiawg *Prydain*, twyth arfdwyth *Owain*,
 Teyrnain ni grain, ni grawn rëi.
 Teir lleng i daethant, liant lestri,
 Teir praff prif lynges wy bres brofi,
 Un o'r *Iwerddon*, arall arfogion
 Or *Llychlynigion*, llwrw hirion lli.
 Ar drydedd dros for o *Norddmandi*,
 Ar drafferth anferth, anfad iddi.
 A dreig *Mon* mor ddrud i eiffillyd yn aer,
 A bu terfysc taer i haer holi,
 A rhagddaw rhewys dwys dyfysci,
 A rhewin a thrin a thranc Cymri,
 A'r gad gad greudde, a'r gryd gryd graendde,
 Ac am dal *Moelfre* mil fannieri,

A'r ladd ladd lachar, ar bar beri,
 A ffwyr ffwyr ffyrfgawdd ar fawdd foddi,
 A *Menai* heb drai o drallanw gwaedryar,
 A lliw gwyar gwyr yn heli:
 A llurygawr glas, a gloes trychni,
 A thrychion yn nhud rhag rheiddudd ri,
 A dygyfor *Lloegr*, a dygyfranc a hi,
 Ag ei dygyfwrw yn austru,
 A dygyfod clod cleddyf difri,
 Yn faith ugain iaith wy faith foli.

VI.

A W D L

A gant Einiawn fab Gwalchmai, i Nest ferch Hywel.

A M S E R Mai maith ddydd, neud rhydd rhoddi,
Neud coed nad ceithiw, ceinlliw celli,
Neud llafar adar, neud gwar gweilgi,
Neud gwaeddgreg gwaneg, gwynt yn edwi,
Neud arfeu doniau, goddau gwedi,
Neud argel dawl nid meu dewi,
Endeweis i wenyg o Wynnosi dir,

I am derfyn mawr meibion *Beli*,
Oedd hydreidd wychr llyr yn llenwi,
Oedd hydr am ddylan gwynfan genddi,
Hyll nid oedd ei deddf hi hwyreddf holi,
Hallt oedd i dagrau, digrawn heli,
Ar helw bun araf uch bannieri ton,

Tynhegl a gerddais i gorddwfr *Teifi*,
Ceintum gerdd i *Nest* cyn noi threngi,
Cânt cant i moliant mal *Elifri*,
Canaf gan feddwl awrddwl erddi,
Caniad i marwnad, mawr drueni!

Canwyll *Cadfan* lan o lenn bali.
 Canneid i fynnieid gar *Dysynni*,
 Gwan, wargan, wrygall, ddeall ddogni,
 Gwreig nid oedd un frad gariad genthi,
 Gweryd rhudd ai cudd gwedi tewi,
 Gwael neuedd maenwedd mynwent iddi,
 Golo *Nest* goleu ddireidi.

Golwg gwalch dwythfalch o brif deithi,
 Gwenned gwawn ai dawn oi daioni,
Gwynedd anrhydedd, oedd rhaid wrthi,
 Nid oedd ffawd rhy gnawd rhin y genthi,
 Gnawd oedd dâl eur mal er i moli,
 Ni ryfu dognach er i dogni poen,

Penyd a fo mwy no'r meu hebddi,
 Neum gorau angau anghyfnerti,
 Nid ymglyw dyn byw o'r byd fal mi,
 Ni chyfeirch angen iawlwen ioli,
 Er neb rhy barther i rhyborthi,
Nest yn ei haddawd, wenwawd weini,
 Ydd wyf pryderus fal pryderi.
 Pryderwawd ceudawd, cyfnerthi ni wnn,

Nid parabl yw hwn ni fo peri.
 Llen argel iffel y fy'm poeni,
 Lludd *Gwen* lliw arien ar *Eryri*.
 Archaf im Arglwydd culwydd celi,
 Nid ef a archaf arch egregi,
 Arch, ydd wyf un arch yn i erchi,
 Am archfein riein, reid y meini,
 Trwy ddiwyd eiriawl deddfawl *Dewi*,
 A deg cymmeint seint fenedd *Frefi*,

Am

Am fun a undydd i hammodi,
A'r gyflwn pryffwn y prophwydi,
Ar gyfoeth Duw doeth i detholi,
Ar anghyweir *Meir* a'r merthyri,
Ag yn i goddau gweddi a ddodaf,
Am dodeis nwyf im addoedi.
Ni bu ddyn mor gu gennyf a hi
Ni bo poen oddef, *Pedr* wy noddi,
Ni bydd da gan Dduw i diddoli,
Ni bo diddawl *Nest*, nef boed eiddi.

VII.

*Llywarch Brydydd y Moch ai cant,**I Lywelyn fab Iorwerth.*

CRIST Greawdr, llywiawdr llu daear a nef

Am noddwy rhag afar,

Crist celi, bwyf celfydd a gwar,

Cyn diwedd gyfyngwedd gyfar.

Crist fab Duw am rhydd arllafar,

I foli fy rhwyf rhwyfsg o ddyar,

Crist fab Mair am pair o'r pedwar defnydd,

Dofn awen ddiarchar.

Llywelyn llyw *Prydain* ai phâr,

Llew a glew a glyw gyfarwar,

Fab Iorwerth ein cannerth an car,

Fab Owain ffrawddiein, ffrwyth cynnar,

Ef dyfu dreig llu yn llafar ddillat,

Yn ddillyn cyfarpar,

Yn erfid, yn arfod abar,

Yn arfau bu cenau cynnar,

Yn ddengmlwydd hylwydd hylafar

Yn ddidranc ei gyfranc ai gar,

Yn *Aber Conwy*, cyn daffar fy llyw,

Llywelyn athrugar,

A *Dafydd*, defawd *Ul Caiſſar*,

Difai

Difai ddraig, ddragon adwyar,
 Difwlch udd difalch i esgar,
 Difwng blwng blaen ufel trwy far,
 Dybryd in feirdd byd bod daear arnaw,
 Ac arnam i alar.

Ef yn llyw cyn llid gyfyscar,
 Ysglyfion ysglyfiant llwrw bar,
 Oedd rynn rudd ebyr or gwyr gwar,
 Oedd ran feirw fwyaf o'r drydar,
 Oedd amliw tonnau, twnn amhar eu neid,
 Neud oeddynt dilafar.

Ton heli ehelaeth i bar,
 Ton arall gwall, goch gwyar.

Porth Aethwy pan aetham ni ar feirch mordwy,
 Uch mowrdwrf tonniar,
 Oedd ongyr, oedd engir ei bar,
 Oedd angudd godrudd gwaedryar,
 Oedd enghyrth ein hynt, oedd angar,
 Oedd ing, oedd angau anghymar,
 Oedd ammau ir byd bod abar o honam,
 O henaint lleithiar.

Mawr gadau, anghau anghlaear,
 Meirw fengi, mal feri fathar,
 Cyn plygu *Rodri*, rwydd esgar, ym *Mon*
 Mynwennoedd bu braenar,

Pan orfu pen llu llachar,
Llywelyn llyw *Alun* athafar,
 Myrdd bu lladd, llith brein gorddyar,
 O'r milwyr, a mil yngharchar.
Llywelyn cyd lladdwy trwy far,

Cyd llosgwy, nid llesg ufeliar,
 Llary deyrn, uch cyrn cyfarwar
 Llwrw cydfod ir clod is claiar,
 Ry llofies rwyf treis tros fanniar i feirdd,
 Oedd fawrllwyth ir ddaear,
 Gwisci aur ag ariant nis car.
 Gwascwynfeirch goffeirch, gosathar,
 Ysginfawr gorfawr, gorwyp par,
 Yscarlad lliw ffeimiad, fflarniar,
 Meirch Mawrthig, ffrwythig, ffraeth, anwar,
 Ffrawddus, a phreiddiau ewiar.
 Mwth i rhydd, arwydd yngwascar,
 Mal *Arthur* cein fodur cibddar,
 Cann a chann, a chein wyllt a gwar,
 Cant a chant a chynt nog adar.

Adar weinidawg, caeawg Cynran drud,
 Dreig *Prydein* pedryddan,
 Addod *Lloegr*, lluoſſawg am bann,
 Addaf hir in herwydd calan,
 Adwedd teyrnedd tir nis rhan,
 A dan fer ys ſef i amcan,
 Adnes i franhes i frein bann,
 Dychre dychrein gwyr ynghreulan,
 Gwrdd i gwnaeth uch Deudraeth *Dryfan*,
 Gwr hydwf, gwrhydri *Ogyrfan*
 Dygwydd gwyr heb lafar heb lan,
 Dygoch llawr dwygad fawr faran,
 Un am fro *Alun*, elfydd can,

A *Efraine*

A Ffrainc yn ffrawddus mal Camlan ;
Ar eil yn Arfon ar forfan,
Yn undydd an un Duw in a ran,
A dwy dreig ffeleig, ffaw gymman
Mal deulew ein dylochaffan,
Ag un traws gatcun, treis faran,
Fal gwr yn gorfod ymhobman,
Llywelyn llafn-eur anghyfan,
Lloegr ddiwreidd, llu rhuddfleidd Rhuddlan,
Llu rhagddaw a llaw ar llumman,
Llwybr yn wybr yn ebrwydd allan,
Llwrw ddawn Cadwallawn fab Cadfan.
I mae am Brydain yn gyfan,
Llary ni ddel ei law ettaw attan,
Llyried tra myned tramor dylan,
Rhag llaith anolaith anolo llan,
A llafnawr lledrudd uch grudd a gran,
Ninnau Feirdd Prydein, prydus eirian berth,
Gwyr a byrth fy rhwyf ymhob calan,
Er digabl barabl gan bawb oi fan,
Digrifwch elwch elyf egwan,
Oi ariant gormant gorym ni drudran,
O'i alaf ai aur ai ariant can.

Gan i ddwyn dychryn a ddechreuo bleid,
Uch blaenwel yn oed llo,
Gnaws achaws yn ych cyn adfo,
Gnawd i ladd ni lwydd i abo.
Caer Leon llyw Mon mwyn Pabo ath dug,
Ef ath dwg ynghodo,

Llywelyn

Llywelyn ef llofges dy fro,
Llas dy wyr dra llyr, dra llwyfo,
Llwyr dug y *Wyddgrug*, nid ffug ffo,
Lloegrwys i llugfryd i fynnio,
Llewdir teyrn lluddiwyd yn agro,
Llas i glas, i glwyfstei neud glo,
Llys *Elfmer*, bu ffêr, bu ffwyrngno,
Llwyr llofged i thudwed ai tho,
Llwrw gwelwch neud heddwch heno
Gan fy rhwyf, nid rhyfedd cyd bo,
Hyd i del i dorf ar dyno a bryn,
Udd breiniawg bieufo,
Llew ai dug, ai dwg pan fynno,
Ir *Trallwng* trillu anwosgo,
Llys efnys, afneued tra fo.
Lles i fyrdd o feirdd ai cyrcho.
Addug y *Wyddgrug* ai dycco,
Gwyliwch gwylyddwr, pwy ai lluddio,
Llwrw *Fochnant* edrywant ar dro,
Llwytcwn llwyth llithiwyd am honno,
Lletcynt *Argoedwys*, gwys greudo,
Llys a dwy neud einym ni heno.
Edryched *Powys* pwy fo,
Brenin breisg werin, brwyfsg agdo,
Ai gwellygio pwyll rhydwylllo :
Ai gwell *Ffranc* no ffrawddus *Gymro*.
Llyw y fy ym, synniwch cyd tawo,
Lloegr gychwyn, a fynn a fynno,
Llwyr i dyd i fryd ar fro *Gadwallawn*
Fab Cadfan, *fab Iago*,

Llary

Llary yspar ys penyd iblo,
Llwrw espyd yspeid anolo,
Llew prydfawr llyw *Prydain* ai chlo;
Llywelyn lliaws ei fran fro,
Llary deyrn cedyrn, cad wofgo; ynghur
Ys fy nghar a orffo.

Gorfydd Udd dremrudd, dramor lliant,
Ym *Môn Mam Gymru* bedryddant,
Gorllwybr llu llenwis ewyngant,
Gwarthaf bryn a phenrhyn a phant,
Gorllanw gwaed am draed a ymdrychant,
Amdrychion pan ymdrechaffant,
Cad y *Coed Anau*, Cadr anant borthi,
Burthiaist wyr yn nifant.
Ail gad trom i tremynaffant,
Udd addien uch *Dygen Ddyfnant*,
Eil miloedd mal gwyr dybuant,
Eil yrth gyrth in gwrthfynnaffant,
Eil agwrdd ymwrdd am hardd amgant bre
Bron yr Erw i galwant,
Cynwan llu fal llew yth welfant,
Cadr eryr ith wyr yn warant,
Can hynny cynhennu ni wnant,
Can wyllon *Celyddon* cerddant.
Dugost y *Wyddgrug*, a dygant i dreis
Adryffedd cyfnofant,
A *Rbuddlan* yn rhuddliw amgant,
Rhun can clawdd adrawdd edrywant

T

A Dinbych

A *Dinbych* wrthrych gorthorant ar fil,
 Ar *Foelas* a *Gronant*
 A *chaer yn Arfon*, a charant yngnif,
 Yngnaws coll am peiriant,
 A *Dinas Emreis* a ymrygant,
 Amrygyr ni wneir na wnant
 Neur orfydd dy orofyn nad ant
 Ith erbyn ith erbarch feddiant
 Neu'r orfuwyd yn orenw *Morgant*
 Ar filwyr *Prydain* pedryddant
 Dy gynnygn ni gennyw cwddant,
 Ni gaiff hoen na hun ar amrant,
 Mad ymddugost waed, mad yth want,
 Arall yn arfoll ysgarant,
 A chleddyf, a chlodfawr yth wnant,
 Ag ysgwyd ar ysgwydd anchwant,
 Mad tywyssfaidd dy lu, *Loegr* irdant,
 Ar derfyn *Mechain* a *Mochnant*,
 Mad yth ymddug dy fam, wyd doeth,
 Wyd dinam, wyd didawl o bob chwant,
 O borffor o bryffwn fliant,
 O bali ag aur ag ariant,
 O emys gochwys gochanant dy feirdd,
 Yn fyrddoedd i caffant.
 Minnau om rhadau rhymfuant,
 Yn rhuddaur yn rhwydd ardduniant :
 O bob rhif im Rhwyf im doniant,
 O bob rhyw im rhodded yn gant
 Cyd archwyf im llyw y lloergant yn rhodd,
 Ef am rhydd yn geugant.

Lliwelydd lledawdd dy foliant,
Llywelyn, a *Llywarch* rwy cant.
Munerawd ym marw fy mwyniant fal yn byw
Lleiffiawn ryw *Run* blant.
Nyd gormod fy ngair it gormant!
Teyrn wyd tebyg *Eliphant*,
Can orfod pob rhod yn rhamant,
Can folawd a thafawd a thant.
Cein deyrn, cyn bych yngreifiant,
Can difwyn o ysgwn esgarant,
Can Dduw ren yn ran westifiant
Can ddiwedd pob buchedd, bych fant.

VIII.

L L Y M A

B U M A W D L

A gant Llygad Gwr, i Lywelyn fab Gruffudd.

I.

CYFARCHAF i Dduw, ddawn orfoledd,
 Cynnechreu doniau, dinam fawredd,
 Cynnyddu canu, can nid rhyfedd dreth,
 O draethawd gyfannedd,
 I foli fy Rhi rhwyf *Arllechwedd*,
 Rhuddfäawg freiniawg o frenhinedd,
 Rhyfyg udd *Caiſſar*, treis far troſſedd,
 Rhuthrlym, grym *Gruffydd* etifedd,
 Rhwyſg frwyſg, freiſg, o freint a dewredd,
 Rhudd barau o beri cochwedd,
 Rhyw iddaw diriaw eraill diredd,
 Rhwydd galon, golofn teyrnedd.
 Nid wyf wr gwaglaw wrth y gogledd,
 O Arglwydd gwladlwydd, glod edryſſedd,
 Nid newidiaf naf un awrwedd a neb,
 Anebrwydd dangnefedd.

Llyw

Llyw y fy ym ys aml anrhydedd,
Lloegr ddifa o ddifeſt fonedd,
Llywelyn gelyn, galon dachwedd,
 Llary wledig gwynfydig *Gwynedd*,
 Llofrudd brwydr, *Brydein* gywryſſedd,
 Llawhir falch, gwreiddfalch gorſedd,
 Llary, hylwydd, hael Arglwydd eurgledd,
 Llew *Cemmais*, llym dreis drachywedd,
 Lle bo cad fragad, friwgoch ryſſedd,
 Llwyrr orborth hyborth heb gymwedd,
 Gnaws mawrdraws am ardal dyhedd,
 Gnawd iddaw dreiddiaw drwyddi berfedd,
 Am i wir bydd dir or diwedd,
 Amgylch *Dyganwy* mwyfwy i medd,
 A chiliaw rhagddaw a chalanedd creu,
 Ag odduch gwadneu gwaed ar ddarwedd.
 Dreig *Arfon* arfod wythlonedd
 Dragon diheufeirch heirddfeirch harddedd,
 Ni chaiff *Sais* i drais y droedfedd oi fro,
 Nid oes o *Gymro* i Gymrodedd.

II.

Cymmrodedd fy llyw lluoedd beri,
 Nid oes rwyf eirioes, aer dyfysgi,
Cymro yw haelryw o hil *Beli* hir,
 Yn herwydd i brofi.
 Eurfudd ni oludd, olud roddi,
 Aerfleidd arwreidd o *Eryri*,

Eryr

Eryr ar geinwyr gamwri dinam,
Neud einym i foli.
Eurgorf torf tyroedd olofci,
Argae gryd, Greidiawl wrhydri,
Arwr bar, taerfar, yn torri cadau,
Cadarnfrwydr ystofi.
Aer dalmithyr, hylithr haelioni,
Arf lluoedd eurwisgoedd wisgi
Arwyp Ner, hyder, hyd *Teifi* feddiant,
Ni faidd neb i gospi.
Llywelyn Lloegrwys feistrolï,
Llyw breiniawl, brenhinedd teithi,
Llary deyrn cedyrn, yn cadw gwesti cyrdd,
Cerddorion gyflochi.
Coelfein brein *Bryneich* gyfogi,
Celennig brancs, berthles borthi,
Ciliaw ni orug er caledi gawr,
Gwr eofn ynghyni.
Parawd fydd meddiant medd Beirdd im Rhi,
Pob cymman darogan derfi,
O *Bwlffordd* osgordd ysgwyd gochi hydr,
Hyd eithaf *Cydweli*.
Can gaffael yn dda dra heb drengi,
Gan fab Duw didwyll gymmodi,
Ys bo i ddiwedd ddawn berchi ar nef,
Ar neillaw Crist Geli.

Llyw

III.

Llyw y fy'n synhwyrfawr riydd,
 Lliwgoch i lafnawr, aefawr ufwydd,
 Lliw deifniawg, llidiawg, lledled fydd ei blas,
 Llwyr waeth yw ei gas noi garennnydd.
Llywelyn gelyn, galofydd,
 Llwyrgyrch darogan cymman celfydd,
 Ni thyccia rhybudd hael rebydd rhagddaw,
 Llaw drallaw drin wychydd.
 Y gwr ai rhoddes yn rhwyf dedwydd,
 Ar *Wynedd* arwynawl drefydd,
 Ai cadarnhao, ced hylwydd yn hir,
 I amddeffyn tir rhag torf ofwydd.
 Nid aniw, nid anhoff gynnydd,
 Neud enwawg farchawg, feirch gorewydd,
 I fod yn hynod hynedydd *Gymro*,
 A'r *Gymry* a'u helfydd.
 Ef difeiaf Naf rhy wnaeth Dofydd,
 Yn y byd o bedwar defnydd,
 Ef goreu riau reg ofydd a wnn,
 Eryr *Snawtwn* aer gyfludwydd.
 Cad a wnaeth, cadarn ymgerydd,
 Am gyfoeth, am Gefn Gelorwydd,
 Ni bu gad, hwyliad hefelydd gyfred,
 Er pan fu weithred waith *Arderydd*.
 Breisclew *Mon*, mwynfawr *Wyndodydd*,
 Bryn *Derwyn* clo byddin clodrydd,

Ni

Ni bu edifar y dydd i cyrchawdd,
 Cyrch ehofn effillydd.
 Gwelais wawr ar wyr lluosffydd,
 Fal gwr yn gwrthladd cywilydd,
 A welei *Lywelyn*, lawenydd dragon,
 Ynghymysc *Arfon* ac *Eiddionydd*,
 Nid oedd hawdd llew aerflawdd llüydd,
 I dreisfiaw gar Drws Daufynydd,
 Nis plygodd Mab Dyn bu doniawg ffydd,
 Nis plycco Mab Duw yn dragywydd.

IV.

Terfysc taerllew glew, glod ganhymdaith,
 Twrf torredwynt mawr uch mor diffaith,
 Taleithawg deifniawg dyfniaith *Aberffraw*,
 Terwyn anrheithiaw, rhuthar anolaith.
 Tylwyth, ffrwyth, ffraethlym eu mawrwaith,
 Teilwng blwng, blaengar fal goddaith,
 Taleithawg arfawg aerbeirh *Dinefwr*,
 Teilu hysgwr, ysgwfl anrhaith.
 Telediw gad gywiw gyfiaith,
Toledo balch a bylchlafn eurwaith,
 Taleithawg *Mathrafal*, maith yw dy derfyn,
 Arglwydd *Lywelyn*, lyw pedeiriaith,
 Sefis yn rhyfel, dymgel daith,
 Rhag estrawn genedl, gwyn anghyfiaith,
 Sefid Brenin nef, breiniawl gyfraith,
 Gan eurwawr aerbeir y teir taleith.

V.

Cyfarchaf i Dduw o ddechrau moliant,

Mal i gallwyf orau,

Clodfori o'r gwyr a geiriau

I'm pen, y pennaf a giglau,

Cynnwrf tân, lluch faran llechau,

Cyfnewid newydd las ferau,

Cyfarf wyf a rhwyf, rhudd lasnau yngnif,

Cyfoethawg gynnif cynflaen cadau.

Llywelyn nid llesg ddefodau,

Llwybr ehang, ehofn fydd mau,

Llyw yw hyd *Gernyw* aed garnedd i feirch,

Lliaws ai cyfeirch, cyfaill nid gau,

Llew *Gwynedd* gwynfeith ardalau,

Llywiauwr pobl, *Powys* ar *Debau*,

Llwyrwys caer, yn aer, yn arfau,

Lloegr breiddiau am brudd anrheithiau,

Yn rhyfel, ffrwythlawn, dawn diammau,

Yn lladd yn llosgi yn torri tyrau,

Yn *Rhos* a *Phenfro*, yn rhysfâau *Ffrainc*,

Llwyddedig i ainc yn llüyddau.

Hil *Gruffudd*, grymmus gynneddfau,

Hael gyngor, gyngyd wrth gerddau,

Hylathr i ysgwyd, escud barau gwrdd,

Hylym yn cyhwrdd cyhoedd waedffrau.

Hylwrw fwrw far, gymmell trethau,

Hawlwr gwlad arall gwledig riau,

U

Harddedd

Harddedd o fonedd, faen gaerau dreisddwyn,
Hirbell fal *Fflamddwyn* i fflamgyrchau.
Hwylfawr ddreig, ddragon cyfeddau,
Heirdd i feirdd ynghylch ei fyrddau,
Hylithr i gwelais ddydd golau i fudd,
Ai feddgryn wirodau.

Iddaw i gynnal cleddyfal clau,
Mal *Arthur* wayw dur i derfynau,
Gwir frenin *Cymru* cymmreisc ddoniau,
Gwrawl hawl boed hwyl o ddechau.

LLYMA

IX.

L L Y M A

ODLAU'R MISOEDD.

*A gant Gwilym Ddu o Arfon, i syr Gruffudd Llwyd o
Dref-garnedd a Dinorweg yn Arfon; allan or Llyfr
Coch o Hergest, yngbolegr yr Iesu yn Rhyd Ychen.*

NEU D cyn nechrau Mai mau anrhydedd,
Neud aeth ysgwaeth a maeth a medd,
Neud cynhebyg, ddig, ddygn adroffedd drift,
Er pan ddelid Crist, weddw athrist wedd !
Neud cur a lafur im wylofedd,
Neud cerydd Dofydd, nad rhydd rhuddgledd.
Neud cof fy ynnof, ys anwedd ei faint,
Neud cywala haint, hynt diryfedd.
Neud caeth im dilyd llid llaweredd,
Neud caith Beirdd cyfiaith am eu cyfedd.
Neud caethiwed ced, nad rhydd cydwedd Nudd,
Cadrwalch Ruffudd, brudd, breiddin tachwedd,
Neud cwyn Beirdd trylwyn, meddw anwyn medd,
Neud cawdd im anawdd, menestr canwledd,
Neud carchar anwar enwiredd Eingl-dud,

Aerddraig *Llan Rbystud* funud fonedd.
 Neud nim dyhudd budd, bum arygledd,
 Neud nam dilyd llid, lliaws blynedd.
 Neud nam dawr, Duw mawr, maranedd, Ne fglyw,
 Neud nad rhydd fy llyw, *Hew Trefgarnedd*,
 Neud trwm oi eisiau dau digyfedd.
 Neu'r wyr Beirdd canwlad, nad rhad rheufedd,
 Neud ef arwydd gwir, neud oferedd gwyr,
 Wrth weled f' eryr yn ei fowredd;
 Neud truan im gwân gwayw lledfrydedd,
 Neud trwydded galed im amgeledd.
 Neud trymfryd *Gwynedd*, gwander dyedd braw :
 Neud hwy eu treisiaw am eu troffedd.
 Neud trahir gohir gloyw babir gledd,
 Oedd trablwnng echwng *Achel* ddewredd.
 Neud trai cwbl or Mai, mawredd allwynin,
 Neud Mis Mehefin weddw orllin wedd.

Neud Mis Mehefin, mau hefyd gyftudd,
 Neud nam rhydd *Gruffudd* wayw rhudd yn rhyd.
 Neum rhywan im gwân gwayw cryd engiriawl,
 Neud am Ddraig urddawl didawl im dyd.
 Neum erwyr om gwyr im gweryd Crist Ner,
 Neud arfer ofer, Beirdd nifer byd.
 Neud arwydd nam llwydd lledfryd im calon,
 Neud eres nad tonn honn ar ei hyd.
 Mau ynnof mowrgof am ergyd gofal,
 Am attal arial *Uren* yngryd.
 Mal cofain cywrain *Cywryd*, fardd *Dunawd*,
 Meu im Dreig priawd gwawd ni bo gwyd.
 Mau gwawdgan *Afan*, ufuddfryd ffrwythlawn,

O gof *Gadwallawn*, brenhinddawn bryd.
Ni wn waith gwaywdwn, gwawd ddihewyd clod,
A thi heb ddyfod pa dda bod byd?
Neud wyr pawb yn llwyr, lleyrfryd gynnaf,
Nad hylithr aur mâl mal oddiwrthyd.
Nid oes nerth madferth ym myd, oth eisiau,
Gwleddau na byrddau na Beirdd ynghlyd.
Nid oes lys ylbys, esbyd neud dibeirch,
Nad oes meirch na feirch na ferch hyfryd.
Nad oes wedd na moes, maffw ynyd yw'n gwlad,
Nad oes mad eithr gwad a gwyd.
Neud gwagedd troffedd, traws gadernyd *Môn*,
Neud gweigion *Arfon* is *Reon* ryd.
Neud gwann *Wynedd* fann, fenn ydd ergyd cur,
Neud gwael am fodur eglur oglyd.
Neud blwyddyn i ddyn ddiolfryd a gar,
Neud blaengar carchar, grym aerbar gryd.

Gwilym Ddu o Arfon ai cant, yn y Flwyddyn 1322.

X.

L L Y M A

DDYHUDDIANT ELPHIN.

I.

ELPHIN deg taw ath wylo.
 Na chabled neb yr eiddo
 Ni wna les drwg-obeithio
 Ni wyl dyn ddim ai portho
 Ni fydd goeg gweddi *Cynllo*
 Ni thyrr Duw ar addawo :
 Ni chad yngored *Wyddno*,
 Erioed cystal a heno.

II.

Elphin deg fych dy ddeurudd
 Ni weryd bod yn rhy brudd
 Cyt tybiaist na chefaist fudd
 Nith wna da gormod cystudd
 Nag ammau wyrthiau Dofydd
 Cyt bwyf bychan wyf gelfydd,
 O foroedd ag o fynydd
 Ag o eigion afonydd
 I daw Duw a da i ddedydd.

III.

Elphin gynneddfau diddan
Anfilwraidd yw d' amcan
Nid rhaid yt ddirfawr gwynfan
Gwell Duw na drwg ddarogan
Cyd bwyf eiddil a bychan
Ar fin gorferw mor dylan
Mi a wnaf yn nydd cyfrdan
Yt well no thrychan maran.

IV.

Elphin gynneddfau hynod
Na forr ar dy gyffaelod
Cyt bwyf gwan ar lawr fy nghod
Mae rhinwedd ar fy nhafod
Tra fwyf fi yth gyfragod
Nid rhaid yt ddirfawr ofnod
Drwy goffau enwau'r Drindod
Ni ddichon neb dy orfod.

TALIESIN ai dywawd.

It may not be improper to inform the Reader, that the ORTHOGRAPHY used in these Poems is the ORTHOGRAPHY of the MSS. and not that of the WELSH BIBLE.

D I W E D D.



A P P E N D I X,

N^o. I.

A METHOD how to retrieve the ancient British language, in order that the Bards of the sixth century may be understood, and that the genuineness of Tyffilio's British History, which was translated from the Armoric language into Latin by Galfridus Arturius of Monmouth may be decided; and concerning a new edition of Gildas Nennius's Eulogium Brittanniæ, with notes, from ancient British MSS. This old British writer has been shamefully mangled by Dr. Gale, his editor, in the *Scriptores Britannici*; and not much mended by Mr. Bertram in his late edition of it at Copenhagen.

WHETHER the ancient British language can be so far recovered as to understand the most ancient British writings now extant, is, I think, a consideration by no means beneath the notice of a society of Antiquarians, and of all learned men in general. There has been, it is true, an attempt of this nature made by the very learned Mr. Edward Llwyd, of the Museum, and in part laudably executed in his *Archæologia Britannica*, which reflects honour on those worthy persons who

supported him in his five years travels into Ireland, Scotland, Cornwall, Basse Bretagne, and Wales. But as his plan was too extensive to bring every branch of what he undertook to perfection, I think a continuation of the same, restrained within certain limits, might still be useful.—Natural history is itself a province sufficient to engross a man's whole attention; but it was only a part of this great man's undertaking: and the learned world is abundantly convinced of the uncommon proficiency he made in natural philosophy; and how industrious he was in tracing the dialects of the ancient Celtic language. But still it must be acknowledged that he did very little towards the thorough understanding the ancient British Bards and historians. And indeed he owns himself that he was not encouraged in this part of his intended work, as appears by his proposals. Far be it from me to censure those very learned men who generously contributed to support the ingenious author in his travels, and dictated to him the method he was to pursue. But, after all, I cannot help lamenting that he did not pay more attention to the old MSS. and compile a glossary to understand them. What he has done of this nature is very imperfect, few words being added to what there are in Dr. Davies's dictionary, and those chiefly from writings of the fourteenth and fifteenth century. Indeed it appears he had not seen the works but of one of the Bards of the sixth century, and that in the red book of Hegeft, in the Archives of Jesus's College, Oxon. He complains he could not procure access to the collections at Hengwrt and Llan Fordaf, and without perusing those venerable remains, and leisure to collate them with other copies, it was impossible for him to do any thing effectual.—Now the method I would propose to a person that would carry this project into execution, is, that as soon as he is become master of the ancient British language, as far as it

can be learned, by the assistance of Dr. Davies's dictionary, and Moses Williams's glossary at the end of Dr. Wotton's translation of Howel Dda's laws, he should endeavour to procure access to the great collections of ancient British MSS. in the libraries of the Earl of Macclesfield, Lady Wynne of Wynstay, the Duke of Ancaster, Sir Roger Mostyn at Gloddaith, John Davies, Esquire, at Llannerch, Miss Wynne of Bod Yscallen, William Vaughan, Esquire, at Corfy Gedol, and in other places both in South and North Wales in private hands. By this means he would be enabled in time to ascertain the true reading in many MSS. that have been altered and mangled by the ignorance of transcribers. I am satisfied there are not many copies of the Bards of the sixth century extant, nor indeed of those from the conquest to the death of Llywelyn. But two or three ancient copies on vellum, if such can be met with, will be sufficient; for in some transcripts by good hands that I have seen, they are imperfect in some copies. This would in a great measure enable our traveller to fill up the blanks, and help him to understand what, for want of this, must remain obscure, if not altogether unintelligible. We should by the means of such a person have a great many monuments of genius brought to light, that are now mouldering away with age, and a great many passages in history illustrated and confirmed that are now dark and dubious. Whole poems of great length and merit might be retrieved, not inferior, perhaps, to Ossian's productions, if indeed those extraordinary poems are of so ancient date, as his translator avers them to be. The Gododin of Aneurin Gwawdrydd is a noble heroic poem. So are likewise the works of Llywarch Hen about his battles with the Saxons, in which he lost twenty-four sons, who all were distinguished for their bravery with golden torques's. *Aurdorchogion.*

TALIESIN's poems to Maelgwn Gwynedd, to Elphin ap Gwyddno, to Gwynn ap Nudd, and Urien Reged, and other great personages of his time are great curiosities. We have, besides these, some remains of the works of Merddin ap Morfryn, to his patron Gwenddolau ap Ceidis, and of Afan Ferddig to Cadwallon ap Cadfan; and, perhaps, there may be in those collections some besides that we have not heard of. All these treasures might be brought to light, by a person well qualified for the undertaking, properly recommended by men of character and learning: and I think, in an age wherein all parts of literature are cultivated, it would be a pity to lose the few remaining monuments now left of the ancient British Bards, some of which are by their very antiquity become venerable. Aneurin Gwawdrydd above-mentioned is said, by Mr. Robert Vaughan of Hengwrt, to be brother to Gildas ap Caw, author of the *Epistole de excidio Britanniae*, which is the most ancient account of Great Britain extant in Latin by a native.—No manner of estimate can be made of the works of our Bards and Historians that have been destroyed from time to time; nay some very curious ones have been lost within this century and a half. I think, therefore, it would be an act becoming the Antiquarian Society, and all patrons of learning in general, to encourage and support such an undertaking, which would redound much to their honour, and be a fund of a rational and instructive amusement.—Nor would those benefits alone accrue from a thorough knowledge of our Bards, but still more solid and substantial ones. For who would be better qualified than such a person to decide the controversy about the genuineness of the British History, by Tyffilio, from the oldest copies of it now extant, which differ in a great many particulars from the Latin translation of
of

of Gulfrid, who owns that he received his copy from a person who brought it from Armorica ; and why may there not be some copies of it still behind in some monasteries of that country, and of other works still more valuable ? Mr. Llwyd, of the Museum, intended to visit them all, in order to get a catalogue of them to be printed in his *Archæologia Britannica* ; but he was prevented by the war which then broke out, of which he gives an account in a letter to Mr. Rowlands, author of *Mona Antiqua restaurata*, and which is published at the end of that treatise. Who can be better qualified to succeed in such an undertaking than a person that is thoroughly well versed in all the old MSS. now extant in Wales. I find that the Armoric historians, particularly Father Lobineau, quote some of their ancient Bards to confirm historical facts. This is demonstration that some of their oldest Bards are still extant ; and who knows but that some of the books they took with them when they first went to settle in Gaul, under Maximus and Conau Meiriadoc, may be still extant, at least transcripts of some of them ; for that some were carried over is plain, by what Gildas himself says, “ *quæ vel si qua fuerint, aut ignibus hostium exusta, aut civium exulum classe longius deportata non compareant.*” So that I would have our traveller pass two years at least in Basse Bretagne, in order to make enquiry after such ancient monuments, and I make no doubt but he would make great discoveries.—Thus furnished, he might proceed to the British Museum, the Bodleian library, and the library of the two Universities, and elsewhere, where any ancient British MSS. are preserved. We might then have better editions of British authors than we have had from the English antiquaries, though in other respects very learned men ; but, being unacquainted with our language, Bards, and antiquities, they have nothing but bare conjectures, and some scraps from the
Roman

Roman writers to produce. No one likewise would be better qualified to fix the ancient Roman stations in Britain, as they are set down in Antoninus's itinerary, and their ancient British names. — I wish learned men would think of this ere it be too late; for one century makes a great havock of old MSS. especially such as are in the hands of private persons, who understand not their true value, or are suffered to rot in such libraries, where nobody is permitted to have access to them.

A P P E N D I X,

N^o. II.

Insert after Sir John Wynne of Gwydir's account of the dispersion and massacre of the Bards, in the introduction to the ode inscribed to Sir John Gruffudd Llwyd, p. 45. the following addition :

IT is taken from an old British grammar, written in English, by Wiliam Salesbury, printed at London, 1567. I have transcribed it faithfully according to the old orthography. " Howbeit when
 " the whole Isle was commonlye called Brytayne, the dwellers
 " Brytons, and accordingly their language Brytishe, I will not refell
 " nor greatly deny ; neither can I justly gainsaye, but their tongue
 " then was as copious of fyt woordes, and all manner of proper
 " vocables, and as well adorned with woorshipful sciences and ho-
 " nourable knowledge as any other of the barbarous tongues were.
 " And so still continued (though their sceptre declined, and their
 " kingdom decayed, and they also by God's hand were driven into
 " the most unfertyl region, barenest country, and most desart pro-
 " vince of all the isle) untill the conquest of Wales. For then, as
 " they say, the nobles and the greatest men beyng captives and brought
 " prysoners to the tower of London, there to remayne during their
 " lyves,

" lyves, desired of a common request, that they might have with
 " them all such bokes of their tongue as they most delited in, and
 " so their petition was heard, and for the lightness soon granted,
 " and thus brought with them all the principallest and chieftest
 " books, as well of their own as of other their friends, of whom
 " they could obtain anye to serve for their purpose. Whose mynde
 " was none other but to pass the time, and their predestinate perpe-
 " tual captivitie in the amenable varietie of over reading and revo-
 " luting many volumes and sundry books of divers sciences and
 " strange matters."

" AND that is the common answer of the Welsh Bardes (for so
 " they call their country poets) when a man shall object or cast in
 " their teeth the foolish uncertainty and the phantasticall vanities
 " of their prophecies (which they call BRUTS) or the doubtful
 " race and kinde of their uncanonized sayntes : whom that not-
 " withstanding they both invoke and worship wyth the most hyghe
 " honoure and lowliest reverence. Adding and allegying in excuse
 " thereof, that the reliques and residue of the books and monuments,
 " as well as the sayntes lyves, as of their Brutish prophecies and
 " other sciences (which perished not in the tower, for there, they say,
 " certain were burned) at the commotion of OWAIN GLYNDWR,
 " were in like manner destroyed, and utterly devastat, or at the least
 " wyse that there escaped not one, that was not uncurablye maymed,
 " and irrecoverably torn and mangled.

" Llyfrau Cymru au llofrudd

" Ir twr Gwyn aethantar gudd

" Ysceler oedd Yscolan

" Fwrw'r twrr ly frau ir tan.

Gutto'r Glyn. A. D. 1450.

“THE books of Cymru and their remains went to the White
“Tower, where they were hid. Cursed was Yfgolan’s act in
“throwing them in heaps into the fire.”

THE Author living at a distance, from the Press, the following
inscriptions of two of the Odes were by mistake omitted in their
proper places :

O D E II. Page 14.

TO Miss WILLIAMS of PENIARTH, on the Banks of DYSYNNI,
this ODE is inscribed by her

Most Obedient

Humble Servant,

E V A N E V A N S.

O D E VI. Page 27.

TO Miss PUGH, of COETMOR, the following POEM is inscribed
by her

Most obedient

Humble Servant,

E V A N E V A N S.

Y

To

To the Note about Sir Gruffudd Llwyd, Page 48, add:

“ Edward Philipp Pugh, Esq; of Coetmor, in Carnarvonshire, is
 “ a descendant in a direct line from Ednyfed Fychan, and has in
 “ his custody a grant from prince Llywelyn the Great of some lands
 “ in Creuddyn given to the said Ednyfed, and his posterity, with the
 “ prince's seal in green wax affixed to it. To this worthy gentle-
 “ man, and his lady, I am much obliged for their civility when I
 “ lived in those parts.—The royal family of the Tudors are likewise
 “ descended from Ednyfed Fychan, as appears by a commission that
 “ was sent to the Bards and Heralds of Wales, to enquire into the
 “ pedigree of Owain Tudor, king Henry the Seventh's grand-
 “ father.”

F I N I S.

ADDENDA ET CORRIGENDA.

Page	Line
ii	9 for Lywarch r. Llywarch
iii	25 <i>instead of</i> (as is attested by Sir John Wynne of Gwydir in the history he compiled of his ancestors at Carnarvon) <i>insert</i> which is attested by Sir John Wynn of Gwydir in the history he compiled of his ancestors from the records at Carnarvon, which were conveyed in his time to the Exchequer, where he complains they lay in great confusion.
12	1 <i>in the notes, for</i> Mynyddaw r. Mynyddawe
15	1 <i>in the notes, for</i> descendants) r. descendants)
--	3 for Rhen, r. Rhun,
17	8 <i>dele of</i>
--	5 <i>in the notes, for</i> appeas, r. appears,
18	16 for Constahtine r. Constantine
--	4 <i>in the notes, for</i> somewhere, r. somewhere,
--	8 for Beridd, r. Beirdd
19	3 for strained, r. stained,
20	7 for fom r. from
21	1 for glistered; r. glistened;
--	2 for border. r. borders.
22	7 for Llanthadian. r. Llanhuadein.
--	8 for Terior r. Teivi
--	10 <i>in the notes, for</i> Tievi. r. Teivi.
--	12 for Llydnwyn r. Llydanwyn
23	4 for border r. borders
--	1 <i>in the notes, for</i> Rydderch r. Rhydderch
--	<i>ibid.</i> for Crnarvon, r. Caernarvon,
25	4 for Melir r. Meilir
26	8 and the mangled <i>dele</i> the
--	15 <i>in the notes, for</i> Gwalmach's r. Gwalchmai's
28	9 <i>in the notes, for</i> Creigian, r. Creigiau,
30	9 for Lyfr r. Llyfr
31	1 <i>in the notes, for</i> Drwydwn, r. Drwyndwn,
--	5 <i>dele an</i>
32	15 for ovecome by Alun r. overcame near the Allen---and line 18 after yet r. he
33	4 for Orgfani r. Orgfan
--	4 <i>in the notes, for</i> Cryfan, r. Dryfan,
34	6 <i>in the notes, for</i> Gwr r. Gwyr
35	18 for Anea, r. Aneu,

Page	Line
33	4 <i>in the notes, for</i> Gwr r. Gwyr
--	<i>ibid.</i> for eried r. erioed
--	4, 5 <i>instead of</i> Coed Anea, the name of a place, but where situated I cannot guess, where a battle was fought, <i>insert</i> , Coed Ancu, near Llanmerchmedd in Anglesey, where a battle was fought.
--	10 for Byn r. Bryn
36	5 for Gwerthenea, r. Gwrtheyrn Gwrtheneu,
38	4 for Gruffudd, r. Gruffudd, <i>in the note, for</i> Arllechwydd r. Arllechwedd
39	4 <i>in the notes, for</i> Tyganvy, r. Tyganwy,
--	7 for enemies country r. enemy's country
--	9 for erry, r. eiry,
40	3 <i>in the notes, for</i> Wyllet. r. Wyllt.
41	16 for Gelowydd; r. Gelorwydd;
42	<i>ult. in the notes, for</i> Tradawg, r. Fradawg,
43	10 for a prince's r. the prince's
48	12 for who is a sure friend, r. for he is a sure friend,
--	8 for I reck not r. I reckon not
--	12 for this is cerain r. this is a certain
49	4 for Cywyrdd r. Cywryd
50	1 for Cadwallwn r. Cadwallon
--	11 for Allon r. Mon
--	<i>ult. in the notes, for</i> Gwr r. Gwyr
52	4 for Crantr'e'r r. Cantre'r
54	25 for Regen r. Reged
--	28 for Aurheg r. Anhreg
65	5 for hautquaquam r. haudquaquam
71	10 for GWYNCWN. r. GWYNGWN.
75	1 for ses r. es
10	1 <i>in the notes, for</i> Crwdd r. Crwyth, and line 4 the same
81	8 for Mulso r. Mulfum
--	10 for refluxionem r. refluxum
82	9 <i>dele olim</i>
87	5 for asperu r. asperum
88	18 for doflectentom? r. defleatentem?
90	12 for abeo r. ab eo
93	13 for requiis, r. reliquiis,
126	1 for nyddr brwyd r. nydd brwydr
144	18 for aerbeith r. aerbeir
148	4 for Ne fglw, r. Nef glw,
---	27 for Uren r. Urien



